



Art collector brings passion to city

Page 8



Dutch donkey fun for capital kids

Page 9

## Shades that never were



Had he not been assassinated by a magic bullet, John F Kennedy would have been the first US president to visit China. This image, Looking Backward, is one of the many grayscale works featured in Black White Grey, a new exhibition which focuses on feelings of being hurt and repressed.

Photo provided by Today Art Museum

Pages 12-13

### Former Shanghai party chief expelled from Party, government

Former Shanghai party chief Chen Liangyu was expelled from the Communist Party of China (CPC) and dismissed from all government posts, a representative of the CPC Central Committee said yesterday.

His case has been handed over to prosecutors, a press release issued by the committee, stated

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee convened a meeting yesterday to review the results of the investigation into Chen's case carried out by the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection from September last year.

Investigations revealed that Chen had misused his power to support the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Labour and Social Security to illegally grant numerous loans from the Shanghai social security fund to private companies. He also aided private companies in purchasing shares of state-owned enterprises, which severely damaged public assets, according to the release.

Chen was secretary of CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee and a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee when the corruption scandal broke. (Xinhua)

Page 2

### Rescue station warns against aiding beggars

Page 10

### 11,000 students take part in Green Long March

# Rescue station warns against aiding beggars

By Annie Wei

To give or not to give is a question everyone faces when he sees a young, old or disabled beggar in the street. But Zhao Changlin, director of Haidian Rescue Station, says Beijingers should think twice before letting beggars hear the jingle.

Zhao recently penned an open letter to citizens asking them to stop giving money to professional beggars. He and his team members are now distributing the letters in major commercial areas in Haidian.

Many beggars in the city do not have to beg for a living, he said. Instead, they abuse public compassion to profit.

"Do not give money or any-

thing else to wandering beggars on the street," the letter said. "Some people will take advantage of your compassion to enjoy an easy life. Worse yet, it might encourage criminals to enslave children or disabled people for their begging operations. If you run into any beggars, please persuade them to come to our shelter."

Zhao said the professional beggars who visit their station tend to take in a lot of money. "Some told me that they can make 200 to 300 yuan per day; During the holidays, they easily take in 500 to 600 yuan per day," he said.

The number of beggars in the capital is hard to gauge due to their roaming, Zhao said. Some beggars

are from very poor areas and find that panhandling on the capital's streets is easier than having a real job, he said. After finding how much their relatives were taking in as beggars, people from their hometowns flooded to the city to cash in on urbanites' good will.

"Did you notice there were fewer beggars in town a few weeks ago? It was harvest time. They are back now," Zhou said.

Giving money also funds criminal syndicates: people steal or rent children or disabled people to work as beggars for them.

"In accordance with our regulations, children and disabled beggars we find in the street get relocated to our rescue center. But

every time we take them in, they end up quickly picked up getting by shady characters," Zhao said.

As a rescue station, Zhao and his colleagues have no power to prevent beggars from leaving, and police have a difficult time gathering evidence connecting the beggars to criminals.

In August 2003, the State Council passed new requirements on the handling of beggars which requires rescue stations to aid them without compensation.

"If you want to do charity, please go through a formal channel. If you don't put money into the hands of professional beggars, then there will be fewer fakes on the street," Zhao's letter said.

## 'Green Great Wall' to ensure green Olympics

By Huang Daoheng

The Inner Mongolia Forest Shelter project, considered an integral part of the nation's "Green Great Wall," has contributed to the improvement in Beijing's ecological environment, a senior official said on Wednesday.

"The climate situation and ecological environment have turned for the better in recent years, thanks to the Forest Shelter Project," Yang Jing, governor of Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, said during a press conference at the State Council Information Office.

The region started work on an ecological defense line and a major clean energy base in 2000 to help Beijing host a "Green Olympics."

Under the project, Yang said, the forest coverage rate has increased to 17.6 percent, compared to the 14.8 percent in 1999, and the forest accumulation also has a net increase of eight million cubic meters.

As a result, more than 16 million hectares of land hit by desertification have been harnessed. Soil erosion has been brought under control in over 4.8 million hectares that used to suffer soil erosion, Yang said.

Known as Beijing's "Ecological Backyard," the autonomous region for many years has suffered from excessive decertification, which causes spring and summer sand storms in Beijing.

According to experts, a 4,000-kilometer ecological front, the longest of its kind in northern China, is to be set up north of China's Great Wall to prevent sand from moving southward into Beijing during the summer.

Statistics show that about 15 billion yuan has been spent on ecological treatment during the past five years.

Founded on May 1, 1947, the Inner Mongolian Autonomous region was the first minority ethnic autonomous region at the provincial level in China.

## Soldiers leave for drill in Russia



More Chinese officers and soldiers boarded trains this week for Russia, where they will join an anti-terrorism drill held by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Pictured is the last batch of officers and sol-

diers, along with armaments to be used in the drill. The six member countries of the SCO - China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - will stage a joint anti-terrorism drill from August, 9 to 17.

Xinhua Photo

## Wind turbines to generate green power

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing is installing 33 large wind turbines on the south bank of the Guanting Reservoir in the city's northwest. The 70-meter-diameter and 5.6-ton wind fans are the first phase of the wind power plant Beijing is developing to use "green" power.

The location is one of Beijing's four wind valleys. The project is set to begin by the end of this year and will bring Beijing 100 million watts of "green" power every year, enough energy for 100,000 households.

More importantly, the plant will save 50,000 tons of coal that would have been needed by a coal power plant, reduce emissions by 100,000 tons of carbon dioxide, 782 tons of sulfur dioxide, 11 tons of carbon monoxide and 444 tons of oxynitride.

But before entering consumers' houses, the power will firstly be used at the Olympic Villages for the athletes apartments.

"It's only a pilot project," Yang Yingqing, deputy director, said.

The second phase of the wind



One of the wheels is under the construction in the Guanting Reservoir.

CFP Photo

power plant is set to be finished by 2010 and will double the power generation capability, Yang said.

But more obstacles lay ahead before wind power enters homes.

He Benhu, an analyst from Ping'an Securities, said that wind power has to solve the cost-efficient difficulty. Only two years ago, the lowest price for each watt of wind power was 0.8 yuan, much higher than the average end-consumer price of 0.5 yuan.

The price has been brought down to the average after rounds of biddings by China Power. "The critical point here is scale," he said.

Foreign companies are entering the domestic wind power market, including Vestas from Denmark, WinWind from Finland, Enercon from Germany, Gamesa from Spain, GEWind from the US and Suzlon from India. "The market is there, we have to step up," He said.

## Games survey shows where volunteers are needed

By Chu Meng

As many as 400 questionnaires were submitted to the *Beijing Youth Daily* for the first round of a survey aimed at locating where Olympic volunteer services are most needed in the city.

The paper's records indicate that 67.8 percent of respondents were Beijing expats under the age of 30.

The top three responses to "Which venues would you most like to see volunteers working at?" were at the airport, around Olympic venues and the city's commercial centers.

Helen, a British tourist, wrote, "They need more volunteers to be working at the airport. I remembered when I first came to Beijing at age 13. I got completely lost in the airport. I lost my way and my family members after I used the restroom."

In the open answer section, submitters supplied many useful and constructive ideas that will help to organize volunteers during the Games.

A lecturer from France at Beijing Normal University wrote, "I need a map of Beijing in French. And I need a competition timetable of when all the French athletes will participate in the Games. I also think the city needs mobile postal stands where I can buy souvenirs and postcards for the Beijing Olympics and mail them directly back home."

All completed forms, once they have been collected and analyzed, will be passed on to the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG).

## Explosive art launches in Hebei

By Gan Tian

The First International Match of the Fireworks and Artwork is ready to launch in Qinghuangdao, Hebei, from September 8 to 13.

Held by the Chinese National Tourism Administration, the Hebei Municipal Government and the International Fireworks Committee, the festival will focus on showing the beauty of fireworks, along with dances and concerts.

Six international companies have been invited to take part in the competition, including Pyromagic Productions Ltd from Hong Kong, Hanwha Corp from Korea, Liuyang Dancing Fireworks Group from China, Performance Pyrotechnics from Australia, WECO Pyrotechnische Fabrik GmbH from Germany and LUSO from Portugal.

Liu Donghui, the chairman of the committee, said these companies produce the best fireworks in the world and will be competing this year.

Firework have been used for art displays in every country. Unlike fireworks set off in festivals, art displays pay more attention to beauty and a rhythm that matches the music, new technology, environmental protection and design.

# Did little girl's injuries result from abuse or disease?

By Jackie Zhang

Vomiting blood and bruised all over, Ding Xiangxiaohui, 6, a girl from Poyang City, Jiangxi Province, has become the focus of attention and sympathy this week.

The girl was still receiving treatment in Shanghai. Her stepmother Chen Caishi, who stands accused by the girl, came under public fire until her release by authorities who connected the girl's injuries to a fall, not by abuse.

Local police interrogated the step mother several times since the case was exposed to the media. A special investigation panel denied Tuesday that the stepmother had abused Ding.

A Medical examination conducted by Shanghai's Ruijin Hospital, where Ding received treatment, could not find any conclusive evidence that Ding's injuries resulted from blows. The hospital said the girl suffered from a number of diseases, including blood problems, pneumonia, severe anemia and bedsores. "She is suffering from a blood disease, so there will be bruises on her body, even from a fall. It is hard to tell whether the wounds on her body were caused by disease or abuse," a doctor from the hospital said.

Ding came to the public's attention early last week. Internet

users circulated a story headlined, "Malicious stepmother beats girl till she vomits blood." The story soon spread to numerous online forums. Pictures showed Ding vomiting blood and her pictures attached to the story sparked a heated debate.

In one online video clip linked to the article, the girl said that her stepmother had abused her. "My stepmother is evil," she told a Jiangxi TV Station while in the hospital.

Chen Caishi was severely criticized on the Internet, but she claimed during her only interview that she and her stepdaughter had a good relationship and she had never beaten the girl.

The girl's kindergarten teacher and neighbor also denied Chen's alleged abuse.

Some netizens questioned whether the coverage was a stunt by the family to raise money for the girl's medical treatment. Zhuangzhipiancha, a poster, suggested that the family wanted attention and fabricated stories about the girl.

"Net users will focus on the girl and come to their help. It works better than ask for help directly and telling the truth," he wrote.

Ding's family has denied these allegations. Still, they have accepted 100,000 yuan (US\$13,230) of donations thus far.

## Hostage survives knife-point kidnapping

By Jiang Xubo

A woman taken hostage at knife-point Wednesday, in downtown Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, was rescued by local police officers following a four-hour standoff, the *Nanjing Daily* reported.

The woman, who remains unidentified, and a police officer were slightly injured during the struggle.

Police identified the kidnapper as Lu Siwen, 20, an Anhui Province native. The man allegedly robbed the woman of 300 yuan (US\$39.70) around 11am Wednesday, and then kidnapped her at knife-point and forced her into a nearby parked car.

Lu demanded a 100,000 yuan (US\$13,230) ransom for the woman, local police said.

The car Lu claimed was occupied, and the shocked woman driver jumped out and called the police.

Officers arrived on the scene in minutes and sealed off the area. They made their move on the car after a four-hour standoff, and overpowered the kidnapper, worn down by hours of negotiations that were headed nowhere.

The woman's left hand and the right forearm sustained minor injuries, and she was sent to the hospital in an ambulance.

Local police are continuing their investigation of the incident

## First private aircraft store opens

By Huang Daohen

The nation's first franchised store for general aircrafts opened its doors last Sunday in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province.

The store, hoping to cash in on civilian capital in the Yangtze River Delta, has brought private aircrafts much closer to reality.

The shop is located in Tianducheng, Hangzhou, and has three exhibition halls that stretch over 800 square meters. The shop's main products are general-purpose aircrafts, including helicopters, police aircrafts, agricultural aircrafts and private ones.

Zhou Jun, manager of the aviation section of the shop, said as many as 50 costumers have shown an interest in their aircrafts, and five have placed orders.

The cost of a private aircraft is about a million yuan, Zhou said, and the most expensive one is 1.2 million yuan (US\$160,000), almost the same price as a luxury car.

Local reports said that there are as many as ten private aircrafts in Zhejiang, and fewer than hundred in the country.

Though billionaires in China show interest and can afford private aircrafts, future prospects for the industry remain gloomy.

Under aviation law, all of China's airspace is under military control, and general aviation flights must be approved by the air force and Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) beforehand.

Anyone interested in constructing a helicopter landing pad, or helipad, must meet construction and technical standards and must get approval from the local government, the air force and the CAAC.

However, a CAAC statement in April said China will implement different controls and management rules for different categories of airspace, including low and high altitudes, by 2010. This move could open the skies to private aircrafts, Chen said.



## Transformers invade Beijing

A four-day toy fair featuring Transformers and special service crops kicked off yesterday at Panjiayuan Flea Market, Chaoyang District. About one thousand toys are on display and for sale, with a 2.3-meter-high Optimus Prime figure as the main attraction.

CFP Photo

## Interest grows over grass roots gay film

By Gan Tian

Mao Zhiyong, an illustrator and director, is going to shoot China's first grass roots gay movie next week. All members of the cast and crew are gay.

The three-hour movie, *Glass Heart*, is based on Mao's personal experiences. He came to the capital three years ago to score a boyfriend in the gay scene, but failed.

"I faced many hardships to survive as a gay person," the director said. "I want to show the heterosexual community what life is like for a gay person; I want to promote homosexual culture," he said.

Mao's idea won support from segments of the gay community. Auditions for the leading roles began in the beginning of May, and over 100 gay people, even some professional actors, tried out. "I really didn't expect that so many people would support the movie. After all, it is China's first grass roots gay movie with all the cast being homosexuals," Mao said.

The leading role fell to a gym coach, who calls himself "Colin." At first, he was afraid that acting in a gay film would cause problems in his personal life, but he became determined to be part of the project after reading the script. He said people should not focus on the cast's homosexual identities, but pay more attention to the movie itself and the culture it features.

The actors are not working for profit. Love Knowledge Action, an NGO specialized in spreading health information, gave the crew 20,000 yuan. A business investment from a CEO of an architectural company who declined to give his identity is the group's most recent source of funds.

Few domestic movies dare to touch on the gay theme. Films with gay elements may be rejected by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television. And it is hard for gay-themed movies to gain funding. Some local homosexual films like *Lan Yu*, and *Happy Together* had to be released overseas before returning to the Chinese market.

## Brief news

### Pet bites

More than 90,000 people in the capital were injured by cats and dogs during the first six months of this year, up almost 34 percent from the same period last year, a spokesman for the Beijing management office for pet dogs said this week.

### Pirate production lines shut down

The country has clamped down on 230 illegal disc production lines since 1996, which have a production capacity of 220 million discs annually, Xu Hu, vice director of the public order management bureau from the Ministry of Public Security said yesterday.

### New rain collection projects

The capital has constructed 450 new project sites to collect rain this year, bringing the total number of collection projects to as many as 600, a collection and processing capacity of 40 million cubic meters of rain, the municipal water authority announced this week.

### Climbing housing costs

Housing prices shot up another 10 percent during the first half of this year over the same period last year, Yu Xiuqing, a spokeswoman from the Beijing Statistic Bureau, said last week.

### Surge in fiscal revenue

The country's fiscal revenue hit 2.6 trillion yuan in the first half of this year, up as much as 30 percent over the same period last year, the Ministry of Finance announced this week.

(By Jiang Xubo)

# 23 missing Chinese re-emerge

By Han Manman

Swedish police, who put great effort into investigating the disappearance of 23 Chinese young people who vanished from a Swedish detention center after seeking asylum at a Swedish airport last month, were shocked to discover that they have been found in Spain.

A source told *Beijing Today* that it is not a simple case of missing people, but a complicated case with three international human trafficking groups behind it.

## Without a trace

According to Mrs Zhu from the Chinese Embassy in Sweden, the embassy is cooperating with the Swedish police authorities to get all the facts of the case.

"Really? They are in Spain?" Zhu answered *Beijing Today's* reporter who was seeking to confirm the source in a telephone interview.

Zhu said that between end of May and the beginning of June that at least 23 Chinese teenagers arrived at Stockholm airport. Immediately after arriving, they claimed they had no identity papers and they were all under age of 18 and wanted to be detained. After being granted this request, they were sent by the border police to a detention center in Sigtuna, Sweden.

However, the majority of those who disappeared from the center were gone within a few days. "We really want to know where these young people went," Zhu said.

Involving so many people, the case immediately was brought to the attention of the Swedish government and international media. It was mostly believed that it was an international human trafficking effect.

Britt Eklund, chief executive of the Sigtuna Council, which finds temporary homes for youth, told a local Swedish newspaper, "This is dreadful! I believe we're dealing with human trafficking. You have to assume that something horrible has happened to them."

Zhu said Swedish police told her that the 23 may not have all been under 18 years old and that they might have destroyed their passports and other identification during their flight to Sweden.

They were described to authorities as being well dressed and appeared at home on the streets of Madrid.

"The Swedish police are still kept in the dark about the case, it is a big stowaway plot," Zhang Jie (alias), who currently works in Madrid and a friend of some 23 people, told *Beijing Today*. He said he is also familiar with some of the trafficking groups in Spain.

## Three groups behind it

Li Xiao (alias), a reporter in Spain and who has been following the case closely said that Spanish police have already found some of the missing youth. "Spanish police did not take immediate action because they want to find

## Group part of elaborate trafficking network

"The 23 people are all from Fujian. Each of them was asked to pay around 170,000 yuan. A Fujian group responsible for organizing the escape and a Beijing group responsible for the travel visa. The group in Spain is responsible for getting them work."



Although Chinese police control stowaway is strict, there are still quiet a few Chinese stowaways in other countries.



The bodies of the illegal immigrants in the Dover stowaway case in 2000 were carried back to their home.

out who was behind it," said Li.

Zhang said it is an elaborated international stowaway plot with three human trafficking groups responsible. "The 23 people are all from Fujian," Zhang said, adding, "Each of them was asked to pay around 170,000 yuan each. A Fujian group responsible for organizing the escape and a Beijing group responsible for the travel visa. The group in Spain is responsible for getting them work."

Zhang said the group from Fujian told them to fly to Sweden and to destroy their identification. "He said that Europeans have a hard time distinguishing Asian people's real age just by looking at them," Zhang said, adding, "Some of them are far older than 18."

During the stay in Sweden, the group directed them by phone

to what they should do next. "Except for the two who stayed in Sweden, the 23 divided into three to five groups and drove to Denmark by car with fake Japanese passports. They later traveled to Spain," he said.

"Not all chose Spain as their final stop, as far as I know, there are some in England now," he said. Zhang said when they reached Madrid, they were forced to call their relatives in China because of "safety concerns," but the real reason was to note that their relatives need to abide by the previous agreement to pay the 150,000 to 190,000 yuan fee. When the money reached their account, they would let them go free.

"My friend told me that the Swedish police have sent the missing information to China, and that Chinese police have already been to their Fujian

homes," he said.

## European law loophole

Zhu, the Embassy official, said Swedish police doubted whether they were stating their real ages before they vanished.

The 23 people claimed that they flew there with their parents and that they had their passports and identification and they didn't know how to contact them. However, the police found that all of them had a mobile phone and €1,000 in cash. There was also no missing children reported in either China or Sweden.

Eklund said, according to Swedish law, the police have no right to supervise the children or to prevent them from leaving in the residence.

"So, the human trafficking groups just take advantage of the legal loopholes in most of northern Europe to cheat. There is also loose management of the borders to easily get from country to country," Li said.

But how could more than 20 people vanish so easily?

According to Swedish law, the police are not allowed to lock and supervise people who are under age 18. So, the 23 Chinese could stay in temporary accommodation without any restrictions. However, the police also noticed that the first thing they did after arriving was go out and buy rechargeable cards for their cellular phones, which runs counter to their claim of having "no way to contact [their] parents and other relatives."

The Swedish officials believe if they could supervise their phone activity they could find the hidden controlling influences, however they could not take action due to the law.

## Putting a stop to Chinese stowaways

"A year and a half ago we had the same problem. This has to stop!" Eklund, from the Sigtuna Council, told the local media.

At least 96 Chinese youngsters, thought to be between the ages of 12 and 18, have come to Sweden in the last year. Ninety have gone missing, and of those, at least 30 have been picked up by authorities elsewhere in Europe.

As a result, Sweden is urging China to increase the effect of prohibiting Chinese criminals with known ties to trafficking. The Swedish migration minister previously sent a proposal to the Swedish government that would record all the passengers' personal information, including name, birthday, visa type and exit and entry visas to help police with further investigations dealing with missing people.

Swedish police also admit that, because of north Europe's "human rights," it is easy for international groups to take advantage and there needs to be reforms.

In 2005, Italian police found six Chinese stowaways' bodies off the Sicilian coast.



CFP Photos

# China silences green GDP study, report says

Beijing (Reuters) – China has stopped the public release of an official study putting a cost to the nation's environmental damage, a government researcher told a Chinese newspaper, blaming official reluctance to confront pollution.

The *Beijing News* reported Monday that the release of a "green GDP" report computing the cost of pollution and ecological degradation in 2005 had been "indefinitely postponed."

Wang Jinnan, a senior expert at the Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning who was the technical head of the project, said publicizing the cost of bad air, water and soil had drawn fierce opposition from local officials eager to maintain growth.

"Taking out the costs of environmental damage would lead to a huge fall in the quality of economic growth in some areas," Wang told the paper. "At present, many areas still place GDP

above all else, and when such thinking dominates, the size of resistance to a green GDP can well be imagined."

Wang said some provincial governments had lobbied the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) and the National Bureau of Statistics not to release the data. The report was originally scheduled for release in March.

A previous report for 2004

had calculated that environmental degradation that year cost 511.8 billion yuan or 3.05 percent of gross domestic product – a figure one SEPA official said at the time was "shocking."

The *Financial Times* reported this month that the World Bank study says about 460,000 Chinese died prematurely each year from water and air pollution and about 300,000 more died from indoor toxins.

## Taikonaut food to go on sale

Beijing (AP) – Dishes like roast pork and stewed duck specially concocted for taikonauts – the Chinese term for astronauts – will be sold in supermarkets by the end of the year, Xinhua reports.

The Scientific Research and Training Center for Chinese Astronauts and a Shanghai-based food company have developed more than 60 space dishes – including meat, vegetables, starches and desserts – for the country's space program, only the third in the world to launch a human into orbit.

The space food is tasty and also provides 2,400 calories required by an astronaut, Chen Bin, head of the center's food and nutrition branch, said.

Other new creations so far? Cantaloupe chips and taro-stuffed mooncake, a hockey puck-shaped confection usually made up of a thin layer of pastry and a sweet filling like lotus-seed paste – a traditional Mid-Autumn Festival gift.

## Couples told to beware of surveillance

Beijing (AP) – Beijing couples intent on stealing a kiss in public are being warned they could be caught on closed-circuit television and suspected of committing a crime, Xinhua News Agency reported Wednesday.

Xinhua said "intimate acts of lovers may be initially categorized as 'kidnapping' or 'robbery' by the computers, which are programmed to be sensitive to violations of safe distances."

Police officers monitoring the cameras will decide if the situation really is dangerous.

But there will be some warning for amorous couples, Xinhua said. Signs will go up next month in areas covered by the cameras, saying in Chinese and English "you are entering a camera-monitored zone."

Public displays of affection, and more, are common for young urban Chinese couples, who often have nowhere else to go because they share small apartments with their parents.

## China spiffs up public restrooms

Beijing (Wall Street Journal) – Beijing is spending at least US\$40 million to sanitize its image as a nation of dirty toilets.

More than two million visitors are expected to attend the event, which China's leaders have long envisioned as a showcase not just of its athletic prowess, but also its cultural and economic advances.

Some 80 percent of Beijing's toilets are squat toilets, illustrated by the sign on the right, which many Chinese prefer.

The strategies range from high-tech, such as buying the latest in water-saving devices for its public toilets, to low-tech, such as hiring armies of inspectors and cleaners who live and sleep on the premises.

In addition to running test trials of some Olympic events this summer, authorities will also test the public facilities, with stepped-up checks and fines.

## Expert comment

By Chu Meng

*China Environment News*, the official newspaper for the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), stated that focusing on "green GDP" was necessary to combat local officials' fixation on growth. Green GDP factors the cost of pollution and ecological degradation into traditional economic analysis.

Zhou Minliang, researcher from the Institute of Industrial Economy, Chinese Academy of

Science, said, "The unusual revelation of official infighting is the latest sign that China's struggle to balance economic growth with environmental concerns has become a volatile political issue."

Zhou said that in the bureaucratic feud over environmental data, SEPA and the statistics agency had "major differences" over what the report should say and how it should be distributed.

The *China Environment*

*News* argued that the "green GDP" idea was essential to break officials' fixation on growth.

But the head of China's statistics bureau, Xie Fuzhan, said, "The government stopped using the term 'Green GDP' previously promoted to cover measures of growth that took into account environmental costs."

Xie said the term was not internationally accepted, but China would continue issuing statistics on energy efficiency,

land use and emissions. Some Chinese economists also said that the methods and data available were too crude for open use.

"Without the support of the statistics agency it would be impossible to continue research by seeking to calculate the costs of environmental harm," Xie said. "China needs to establish a governmental supervising mechanism, build up a judicial litigation system, and motivate full social circles' participation."

# China to join top three economies

Shanghai (LA Times) – China's economy grew at an extraordinary rate of 11.9 percent in the second quarter, the fastest clip in more than 12 years and a pace that puts the nation on track to overtake Germany this year as the world's third-largest economy.

For the last 35 years, the US, Japan and Germany have ranked 1-2-3 in gross domestic product (GDP), but as growth in those mature economies has slowed, China's has accelerated, powered by foreign investments and trade amid a global shift in production activity to the Far East.

Just 12 years ago, China's economy ranked No 8, behind Brazil's, and was less than one-third the size of Germany's.

During the first half of the year, China's trade surplus reached US\$115 billion, up 85 percent from a year ago.

By China's calculations, its GDP in 2006 was about US\$2.7 trillion. Germany's was US\$2.9 trillion, based on International Monetary Fund data. However, its economy, like those of the US and Japan, has been growing at a fraction of the rate China's has.

But figures released in a report by China's government last Thursday show increasing challenges still ahead for Beijing: surging inflation, breakneck investments in factories and a dramatic jump in exports that is stoking tensions between China and its major trading partners, particularly the US.

## Governmental response

By Huang Daohen

"Rising domestic consumption contributed to the economic growth in the first half of this year," Li Xiaochao, spokesman of the National Bureau for Statistics (NBS), told a press conference at the State Council Information Office recently.

Consumption, previously the weakest economic drive compared with exports and investment, has caught up as retail sales grew 15.4 percent in the first half, while investment slowed down.

Li attributed the fast growth in consumption to the increase of people's income and spending.

The good performance of Chinese enterprises, the government subsidies for low-income residents

and farmers and higher minimum wages for rural workers, helped increase the income, Li said.

The government is funding more to education, medicine and housing, people are spending less. This explains the growing sales of automobiles, consumer electronics, housing and furniture, Li said.

For the media's claim that China will overtake Germany as the third economic power, Li didn't give a straight answer, but said that different countries or institutes have different calculation methods.

"However, one thing is for sure," Li said, "Since China has kept a sustained, high growth rate, the gap between the two countries will continue to narrow."



## Olympic Water Park ready for the Games

A visitor crosses a bridge above the kayaking course at the newly completed Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park on the outskirts of Beijing yesterday.

The racing boat, canoe-kayaking and marathon swimming events of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games will be held in the Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park, where 32 new Olympic champions will be created.

Getty Images

# Barclays seeks to sell China, Singapore stakes for ABN buy

Singapore/Beijing (Reuters) – Britain's Barclays is in talks with the governments of China and Singapore to raise 10 billion pounds (US\$20.6 billion) to help fund its planned purchase of Dutch bank ABN AMRO, the BBC reported.

A deal could put an end to the three-month bidding war for ABN and result in the world's biggest bank takeover. Barclays' existing all-share offer for ABN is rivaled by a higher, mostly cash bid by a consortium led by Royal Bank of Scotland.

If the talks succeeded, China

would hold a seven percent stake in the merged bank, while Singapore would own three percent through its investment holding company, Temasek.

BBC says China's newly formed investment authority was the institution to invest in Barclays. But other sources say that it is China Development Bank.

European politicians, meanwhile, nervous about prize domestic assets being bought up by increasingly powerful state investment agencies in countries such as China, Russia and the United Arab Emirates, have spoken openly

about possible legislation to ward off unwanted suitors.

Barclays said last week that it might add cash to sweeten its agreed €65 billion (US\$90 billion) offer for ABN as it battles against a higher bid from the RBS-led consortium that includes Belgian-Dutch group Fortis and Spain's Santander.

If Barclays fails in its improved bid to buy ABN, the newly formed Chinese investment authority and Temasek would instead take smaller stakes in Barclays, the BBC said.

The deal is being arranged

with the help of US private equity firm Blackstone, which in May sold a US\$3 billion stake in itself to the Chinese state.

Also this week, the London-based Barclays Bank Plc has won regulatory approval to buy a 20 percent stake in New China Trust & Investment Co, one of China's oldest trust firms, after more than one year negotiations.

The purchase will make Barclays the first foreign bank with a stake in a Chinese trust firm, while others, including Morgan Stanley and UBS, are still in talks with potential Chinese partners.

## ICBC tops Citigroup as No 1 bank

Shanghai (Reuters) – A leap in the shares of Industrial & Commercial Bank of China this week made it the world's largest bank by market capitalization, overtaking US giant Citigroup.

ICBC's Shanghai-listed A shares surged 2.68 percent to 5.75 yuan, giving it a market capitalization of US\$254 billion, according to Reuters calculations.

That exceeded the US\$251 billion capitalization of Citigroup, previously the world's biggest bank, when its shares closed at US\$50.73 in New York last Friday. HSBC Holdings was in third place with US\$215 billion.

## Air China to increase routes to Europe

Beijing (Bloomberg) – Air China will increase the frequency of flights to the UK, France, Russia and the US, Zhang Lan, senior vice president, said in Beijing. It's also applying to add a route to Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea.

Beijing expects 1.7 million visitors for the Olympics, with 1.1 million domestic travelers and the rest from overseas. Air China plans to join Star Alliance, the world's largest airline group, by the end of this year allowing it to sell tickets on its partners' international routes.

## JPMorgan to incorporate in Beijing

Shanghai (Reuters) – JPMorgan said it had won the final approval to set up a wholly owned unit in Beijing to strengthen its wholesale banking business in the world's fastest growing major economy.

This move will make JPMorgan the second US bank to incorporate in China, after Citigroup Inc earlier this year, while more than a dozen foreign banks get in line to secure regulatory approval for their China-incorporated units.

Besides expanding the wholesale banking business in China, JPMorgan is making efforts to win underwriting deals for Chinese companies' overseas listings. Currently, JPMorgan does not have any retail business outside of the United States.

## Rolls-Royce opens Beijing showroom

Beijing (autochannel) – Rolls-Royce opened a showroom in Beijing earlier this week. Colin Kelly, the Asia Pacific Regional Director of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, launched the opening.

This is one of Rolls-Royce's five showrooms in the Greater China. The other four are in Chengdu, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

China is the third largest market in the world for Rolls-Royce, behind the US and the UK, according to Kelly. He says Rolls-Royce will open more in the coming months.

## China, ASEAN nears FTA

Singapore (AP) – Southeast Asian nations and China are on the track to establishing a free trade pact with just a number of details to be ironed out, a senior ASEAN official said this week.

"We are on track on the free trade area," said Ong Keng Yong, secretary-general of the ten-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Trade between China and ASEAN, expanding by nearly 40 percent a year, is likely to exceed US\$200 billion a year by 2008, two years before the free trade area is due to be established in 2010.

"By 2010 is well within our expectations," Ong said on the sidelines of a luncheon with American business leaders in Singapore.

Plans were set in 2002 for a free trade area with China that will create a market of about 1.8 billion consumers – more than a quarter of humanity – and trade totaling more than US\$2 trillion.

Countries have already begun slashing tariffs on some products, though tough negotiations continue on loosening trade restrictions for finance and other service industries.

"Some services still (need) to be ironed out," Ong said, without elaborating. He said negotiations on how the agreement will cover investments between the China and ASEAN will hopefully be completed by the end of the year.

ASEAN is a key market for Chinese manufacturers, as well as a source for energy, rubber, minerals and other natural resources.

ASEAN's members are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam – countries ranging from Southeast Asia's most affluent to the poorest.

## Flying panda



An All Nippon Airways (ANA) Boeing 767-300ER named "FLY! PANDA" with a panda pattern painted on its fuselage lands at the Beijing Capital International Airport yesterday.

The aircraft is being operated by ANA to mark the 35th anniversary of normalization

of Japanese-Chinese diplomatic relations and 20th anniversary of the airlines' flight service operation between the two nations, an ANA company official said.

ANA will use the plane for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the official said.

Xinhua Photo

## China protects forests worldwide, report says

Chicago (packaging-online) – China's paper industry has built up a massive recycling capacity that is protecting forests worldwide from destruction, Environmental Aspects of China's Paper Making Fiber Supply, one of the latest Chicago-based Forest Trends' reports, says.

The core behind China's contribution is its strong consumption of recovered paper as an

alternative to pulpwood

It notes that today about 60 percent of the fiber used to make paper and paperboard products in China is derived from recovered paper.

In the last ten years, China's recovered paper imports increased by more than 500 percent, from 3.1 million metric tons in 1996 to 19.6 million metric tons last year.

"China is by far the world's biggest consumer of recovered paper and that's a good thing because, in the last four years alone, China has prevented 65 million metric tons of recovered paper from heading to landfills in the US, Japan and Europe," Brian Stafford, the lead author of the report and an expert on the international pulp and paper industry, said in the preface.

## China cracks down on fake Viagra

Beijing (AFP) – Police seized one ton of fake Viagra pills during a series of raids on gangs that were making counterfeit drugs to sell at home and abroad.

Aside from the popular anti-impotency drug, fake versions of Tamiflu, which is being stockpiled around the world for a potential bird flu pandemic, and anti-malarial medications were uncovered, Xinhua said.

The one ton of Viagra was uncovered in China's southern Guangdong province that borders Hong Kong following a raid late last year made in co-operation with US law authorities.

The Tamiflu raids in May also took place after acting on intelligence from US authorities, resulting in the arrests of 19 suspects. Xinhua said the gang had been trying to sell the Tamiflu into the

US via the Internet.

China has ramped up a public relations campaign to reassure the world it is doing all it can to combat the problem of substandard and fake medicines.

The nation also consistently vows to better work with its global partners to end the rampant pirating in China of all kinds of goods, from software and movies to clothing and auto parts.

# Hefty fines for family policy offenders



An art exhibition held on July 21 in Shanghai reminds visitors that two children are born every two seconds in China. CFP Photo

By Jiang Xubo

Central China's Hunan Province initiated fines as hefty as six times the annual income of people who violate the family-planning policy in its latest draft amendment to the provincial regulations on population and birth control this week. It seeks to curb the trend among celebrities and the wealthy in the region who give birth to more than one child, local *Changsha Evening News* reported.

The fines would be determined based on the violators annual income. People giving birth to one or more children than allowed, would have to pay a fine as high as two to six times their annual income, which they gained in the year before the child was born. People who were found guilty of polygamy and gave birth to a child in their plural marriages would be demanded a fine of six to eight times their annual income. People who give birth to a child out of wedlock would face the same penalty. For those who dare to break the

regulations further, each one of the illegal births would mean three to five times their annual income.

Local authorities, including the tax office, would help to get the accurate figures of the offender's annual income.

The draft has been submitted to the Standing Committee of the Provincial People's Congress for approval.

Current regulations, issued in 2002, resulted in a fine of two times the offenders' annual income as a social cost for bringing up the child. The amount might account for less than one percent of the offenders' wealth when they owned 10 million yuan, the provincial family planning commission's survey, conducted last year, revealed.

"Current penalties failed to stop affluent couples from giving birth to more than one child," Dai Junti, commissioner from the provincial commission, said.

Generally, urban families can have one child and rural families can have two if the first is a girl.

## Comment

### Fixed fine ratio

The way to decide the amount of the fines is not ok to begin with. Would rich people really care, even if the fines may hit as high as tens of thousands of yuan? There should be a fixed ratio for all people.

For example, the fine could

account for one fifth of the offenders' total wealth. And then, let's wait and see.

—canghaiyishengxiao

### Heftier fines make sense

It is for sure that wealthy people have to face punishment if they break the regulations on family planning.

Higher fines make sense to me. The more money they have, the heftier the fines they should have to pay. Otherwise, they will not care and the regulations will not work.

—foxyeyes

### Poors are more important

How much do rich people

account for the total population? I bet it is quite low.

After all, there aren't so many rich people in this country. It is more important to come out with birth control regulations for stricter administration on poor families.

—kitty

### How to collect the fines?

It won't work at all. Disadvantaged people couldn't afford the fines of course. And what could we do if rich people refused to pay their fines? Actually, they could just run away.

—tianya1973

(source: sina.com.cn)

## 100,000 yuan spent on dog funeral

By Annie Wei

Last Sunday morning, Lin, an 80-year-old university professor was paid 100,000 yuan for a two-day funeral for his dog in the northern area of Chengdu, Sichuan Province.

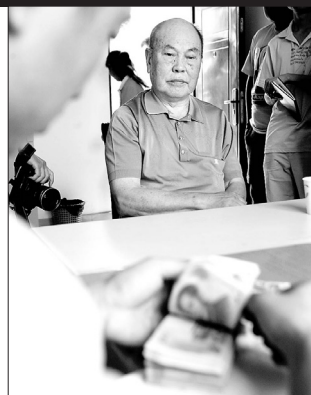
The 100,000 yuan funeral fee included 4,000 yuan per day for the villa, 18,000 yuan for using the funeral's ceremony hall, 10,000 yuan for a luxury hearse, 4,000 yuan for labor, flowers, coffin, and the makeup.

One of the staff members at the funeral home said that they did not want to take the business

at the beginning, but were moved by Lin's affection.

Lin said he was a lonely old man whose children have grown up and moved away to other cities. "The dog has been with me for more than three months. He was a great companion and the biggest joy in my life. I want to hold this funeral for him to express my love to him," Lin told Wang Di, a reporter for *Huaxi Dushibao*, a local Chengdu newspaper.

Although more and more Chinese people are starting to have pets, how to deal with it after they pass away is still very new.



Professor Lin pays the funeral home in cash.



The dog's funeral attracted the local media.

IC Photos

## Comment

### Get your priorities straight

I cannot believe a professor did that, to spend 100,000 yuan on his dog's funeral.

Is he trying to prove that he is a pet-caring person or to show off he had money?

How many kids in the countryside are stressed about money to pay for their school fees, and how many kids that 100,000 yuan could have helped?

—Wang Yue

### A personal thing

It's something very personal. Why someone has to compare

poor kids to rich people's pets? Children from a poor family were not generated by others' having pets.

—Lin Sha

### Waste of money

I do not agree with spending so much money on a funeral and I think it is a waste.

But I also know that not every one is practical.

My grandma died in 2002 and I was so upset then, but I still don't think that it was necessary to spend so much money on a funeral.

What we want is to not waste money, but to remember the person who passed away.

—Wen Wen

### Part of the family

It doesn't matter if the pet is missing or has passed away because it's a travesty to the pet owner because the pet has become part of the family.

I think graves for pets is a good idea and a sign of civilization. I hope China will have laws for small animals, including funerals.

—Anonymous

### Eagle lover

A friend of mine had his dead eagle stuffed. So the eagle can stay with him forever! That's a good idea.

—Zheng Anan

### Why not?

Since so many people have pets now, I think opening a pet funeral business is a good idea. It also gives people jobs.

—Anonymous

# A home as unique as art

By He Jianwei

A young French art collector has opened his Valéry Vauban-de-Montaudon's home/gallery for six months in order to show western modern and contemporary art as a lifestyle to China's capital city.

Paintings of Picasso, Miro and Dali decorate the walls as ceramic dishes and pots sit on the table at his apartment in 89 Promenade Des Arts Gallery at North Blue Castle, near Shi Kong Place. "89 Promenade Des Arts Gallery is not an art gallery with white walls and paintings – I deal in prints as well as ceramics, rugs and furniture – but also a place to have a drink and talk about art with the people who visit here," Vauban-de-Montaudon said.

He has collected 70 pieces from 27 artists for his collection. He has purchased a Pignatta painting, *The Mocking*, for the low price of 1,060 yuan and also has a Sosno sculpture, *Venus*, that cost 199,990 yuan.

"Chinese people have a traditional perception that art is expensive, but it's not true. Art should be for everyone who appreciates art, so here the price ranges from as low as 1,000 yuan to much, much more," he said.

Some of the works in his gallery



Valéry Vauban-de-Montaudon tries to bring art as a lifestyle to China.

Photo provided by Valéry Vauban-de-Montaudon

are original and unique, but some are also original etchings. He said that Chinese customers have no concept of original etching works, as they don't know the value. The artist always signs and number each of his originals.

So, most of his customers are expats who live in Beijing or visit here. "I sold a piece by the contem-

porary French sculptor and artist Sosno, who has collaborated to make a big sculpture for the 2008 Olympic Games, to an American who took it back to the States – a place where I'm not sure you can find his pieces," he said.

Born into a family of art collectors in France, he quickly learned to appreciate and acknowledge

the elegance of art at a very young age. That interest and passion grew more and more as he began to visit galleries and museums around the world.

He is in cooperation with the Capital Museum to sell some of the works from his gallery. Vauban-de-Montaudon and his gallery will also attend Art Beijing this autumn.



Christine Boskoff



Andrew Clem Lindenmayer

## Aussie, US climbers' bodies found in Sichuan

By Han Manman

The body of Australian climber Andrew Clem Lindenmayer, who went missing in Mount Gongga in Sichuan Province in May, has been found, local officials said on Tuesday.

Villagers found a body on July 19 at Riwuqie peak – 4,600 meters above the sea level. It has been identified as that of Lindenmayer.

Lindenmayer, 48, wrote his last e-mail to his wife on April 18, saying he was planning to travel to Mount Gongga. He was reported missing in May. His wife went to Riwuqie peak to identify the body, Zheng Xianfeng, a Sichuan prefecture official told *Xinhua*.

She had wanted to bring the body back to Australia, but later agreed on cremation at Riwuqie peak since it was too dangerous to move the body from the steep slope, Zheng said.

Last month, villagers searching for Lindenmayer found the body of a Japanese climber, who disappeared 26 years ago. A 12-strong mountaineering team from Hokkaido, Japan, set out to climb Mount Gongga in May 1981, but eight members disappeared after a fall when the team was moving to an area 7,450 meters above sea level.

The news came one day after the Sichuan Mountaineering Association confirmed the discovery of the body of Christine Boskoff, a renowned US climber, in Genyen Mountain.

Last November, Boskoff and her climbing partner, Charlie Fowler, also an experienced high-altitude mountain climber, were on a personal climbing expedition in Sichuan Province. Fowler's body was recovered on December 27.

The area is notoriously dangerous for climbers with 20 recorded deaths on Mount Gongga, including four Chinese, 14 Japanese, one French, one American, one Swiss and Lindenmayer, an Australian.

Gao Min, deputy secretary general of the Sichuan Mountaineering Association, called on foreign climbers to register with the association before heading out to the mountains.

"Many foreigners just climb the mountains in Sichuan without registration, so they don't know the uncertain weather conditions and complicated geology well enough," Gao said.

## French swim team dives in

By Han Manman

Fauquet Claude, French National Technical Director, said at the start of his two-week China trip that France is expecting to win six medals in swimming at next year's Beijing Olympic Games and that China should take home around ten medals.

To warm up for next year's Olympics, the French national swimming team – eight women and four men – came to Beijing last weekend to train in China ahead of the Paris Open (August 2-5).

After spending their first three days in Beijing, they traveled to Dalian – their pre-Olympic swimming base.

However, French gold medalist Laure Manaudou is absent. She is viewed as France's top hope for gold in the women's 800-meter freestyle event.

Claude said Manaudou is still recovering from a broken toe and, "Will not join the team in China so that she can have a full month to rest before the Paris Open." As for Manaudou's preparation for the pool, Claude said, "It is a secret!"

According to Claude, the team will come to Dalian two weeks before the Olympics kick off next year.

He said the French team would start selecting athletes next April. Claude also disclosed that the French government will award €50,000 for the athletes who wins gold in swimming and that the French swimming center will also award a gold medal winner with a €20,000 bonus.

French swimmers only had a chance to visit the Imperial Palace, the Temple of Heaven and Great Wall during the Beijing stop. Their main impression at some of Beijing's most famous tourist attractions has been "too many people there!"

## An Israeli play, in Chinese



Father's Braid is the first Israeli play being directed and performed by native Chinese.

Photos provided by Ji Pei

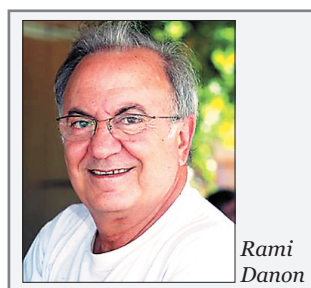
By Han Manman

Rami Danon, an Israeli director and playwright, arrived in Beijing on Wednesday to attend the premiere of his play, *Father's Braid*, which is being directed and performed by native Chinese for the first time.

In an interview before the premiere, Danon said it is his second visit to Beijing. "I had a dream that the play was being performed in Beijing, now it is a reality," he said. The show will be on until this Sunday at the Beijing People's Art Theater.

"The play is based on my relationship with my father," he said. He gets quiet when asked to tell the story of his father. "My father wants me to be someone else, but I wanted to work in a play or on the stage," he said. He said he didn't speak with his father for a long time. "It was only when he died, that I forgave him," Danon said with a tear in his eye.

Ji Pei, director of the Chinese version, said she read the play countless times, and each time



Rami Danon

came away with a different feeling. Ji said that even though the play tells the story of the relationship between an Israeli father and his son, it is the same in China. "Like our Chinese concept of family, where the father loves his children and hopes that they become what they want to be, it doesn't always work out that way," he said.

"Although we have different understandings on some parts of the performance, I think it came out great," Danon said after seeing the afternoon rehearsal. "Father's Braid has been on stage in Israel for three years with over

500 shows. Now, I am curious of what type of Chinese feedback there is for the play," he said.

"It is written in Hebrew and performed in Chinese by a Chinese director and actors. Therefore, the play which is identified with Israel's consciousness and mood expressed the mosaic of Israeli society and has a symbolic connection to China," said Dr. Yehoyada Haim, the ambassador of Israel.

Many Israelis were invited to see the premiere on Wednesday night, and many of them left the play in tears. "I was really moved. Though I don't understand what the Chinese actors saying, I can feel them," an Israeli audience member said after the play.

*Father's Braid* deals with lying as an almost inevitable connecting factor in the life of a family. Family members lie in order to survive with one another. The head of the family, Ezra, is terminally ill, and the action takes place during the final week of his life.

## British artist arrives for 'Get It Louder'

By Jackie Zhang

Assa Ashuach, a UK designer, came to Beijing to speak with Chinese designers and artists in the British Council office, Tuesday.

He is one of 14 artists participating in Get It Louder, an exhibition which will start next month.

Ashuach introduced some of his works and explained his design concepts, which sparked questions and discussion among the Chinese crowd.

"501 Chair" is one of Ashuach's best known works, which evolved from his earlier work "My Trousers." The chair looks like a pair of trousers. "This new way of sitting allows users to relieve tension in their backs. The traditional chair is an evolutionary mistake that started way back with the design of the first chair."

His views rubbed more than one audience member the wrong way. One lady said Ashuach's designs complicate things. "I think your design concept is to challenge tradition, but designs should make life easier. Your designs do the opposite," she said.

"Most people didn't think chairs made of steel tubes are good to sit on or put in sitting rooms, but now, we are sitting on such chairs in this room. Perhaps I just did a bad job explaining the design and how to produce this chair, but I'm certain it is comfortable to sit on, and actually quite simple," he said.

## Dutch theater company brings Little Donkey



A scene of the Little Donkey.

Photo provided by the Dutch Embassy in China

By Chu Meng

Count on Amsterdam's Theatre Terra to bring local youngsters a stage full of Dutch treats when it visits the Hingham Music Hall for Young People. Less than a year after performing the musical Frog and His Friends, the globe-trotting company has returned with Little Donkey, a sweet, tune-filled puppet show about a forest full of creatures trying to recover from a powerful windstorm.

The story, by children's author Render Kromhout of The Netherlands, teaches the simple truths about friendship, but it's the visual presentation that stands out. The perspective of the four actors gives the colorful, hour-long musical its surprising size.

After his mother's laundry house is flattened, Little Donkey and his friends come to the rescue to help her find her missing laundry. Most importantly, they must locate a wayward sock belonging

to Marabou, an imposing bird whose three-meter-high spindly legs are all that can be seen when it first walks on stage.

Director Wilma Hoornstra plays on children's natural fears by making them think Marabou is some kind of huge ogre, by supplying him with a booming voice and a determined resolve to get his socks back. Marabou's long, sharp beak and worm-like neck make him suitably unsettling for attendees at the lower end of the three-to eight age spectrum.

Worried for his mother, Little Donkey goes off on his own to meet Marabou head on. As he moves through mountains, different sized puppets appear to suggest great distance. Of course, Marabou is different from how he appears, and Little Donkey discovers not only the missing sock, but an unlikely friend.

## UN promotes Olympic volunteerism

By Huang Daohen

A United Nations (UN) project launched Wednesday aims at strengthening volunteer spirit in China through the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

The project was launched by the Beijing Olympic Games Volunteer Work Coordination Group, Beijing Committee of the China Communist Youth League (BCCCYL), China International Centre of Economic and Technical Exchange, UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Volunteers Programme (UNV).

Named the "Strengthening Volunteerism in China through the Beijing 2008 Olympic Volunteers Action Plan," This three-year project, with an initial endowment of US\$1.4 million, is designed to promote volunteerism and raise awareness of the contributions that volunteers can make through the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, a project spokesman said.

"UN Volunteers is proud to be part of the 2008 Olympic volunteer effort," Ad de Raad, executive coordinator of UNV, said at the signing ceremony. "The Games will offer China and the world the opportunity to take a big step forward in raising global awareness of the power and critical importance of volunteer contributions."

The project will conduct pre-Games volunteer trainings for a core group of 10,000 Olympic volunteer leaders, managers and trainers in volunteer recruitment, management and recognition. Volunteers will also be encouraged to take on assignments in poverty alleviation, health, education, gender equality and HIV/AIDS.

Subinary Nandy, UNDP Country Director in China, has high expectations for the project. "It is our hope that we can inspire Olympic volunteers to lead this effort and assert volunteerism as a valuable tool towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the Xiaokang society," Nandy said.

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# 11,000 students take part in Green Long March

By Annie Wei

As the environment quickly becomes a bigger issue in China, more than 11,000 Chinese students, led by Future Generations/China are doing a green survey in the country's vast lands this summer, by walking through thousands of miles and doing spot inspections.

It's a program called Green Long March. Around 1,000 students from Beijing will conduct scientific surveys, raise awareness and provide conservation ideas to rural communities during ten different march routes across 22 provinces and 26 national nature preserves. These 1,000 students will meet and work with another 10,000 students from 22 provinces during the marches.

The project kicked off on July 7, and the first team was set off on their route two days later. So far, some teams have returned. As soon as they return, they must submit an initial report, and then work on a final draft to release to the public.

Frances Fremont-Smith, the executive director of Future Generations/China has lived in China for almost 30 years. Last October, she came up with an idea to spread conservation awareness across China. After discussing it with her colleagues, they came up

with The Green Long March idea.

"I was then introduced to leaders at the Beijing Youth Federation and was introduced to the Beijing Forestry University Youth Federation in late October and the project became official as part of the annual Green Bridge Activities held by University conservation groups across Beijing," Fremont-Smith said.

Talking about the success of getting so many students from totally different places for such a project, Fremont-Smith said that it was important to have the support of the Communist Youth League in order to facilitate the inclusion of so many universities across the country.

As water is the emphasis for this year's greener society, the routes chosen included the Yellow River, the Yangtze River and four rivers in Tibet. "Because one very important aspect of this Green Long March is to document conservation successes in communities across the country, we wanted to make sure that all the ecological zones of China were covered," she said.

"I hope that the Green Long March 2008 can include a wider selection of students," she said.

For people who have interests in this project and want to get involved, can find more information at [greenlongmarch.org](http://greenlongmarch.org).



Students march along the original Long March route in Songpan, Sichuan in July. Photo provided by Future Generations/China

## Olympic legacy discussed at bookworm



Gregory Groggel at Bookworm  
Photo by Kimron Thomas

By He Jianwei

Staging a successful Olympic Games is more than having the whole world focused on you as a way to make a profit or a short-term spectacle, Gregory Groggel, has a discussion with a group of Beijing expats at Bookworm.

The speaker has traveled to six cities that have hosted the Olympics. He gave a talk about the legacy of the Games on Tuesday.

As part of Groggel's fascinating project, *Chasing the Flame: the Lasting Legacy of the Olympic Games*, to investigate the social, economic and political impact of hosting the world's largest event, and has spent two months in Mexico City, Munich, Sarajevo,

Seoul, Sydney and Beijing, arriving in June.

After just recently wrapping up his two-month research of Beijing's preparation of the 2008 Olympics, Groggel believes that the iconic stadiums, architectural designs, infrastructure improvements and environment awareness could be the legacy for Beijing.

"The venues are simply some of the most gorgeous sporting facilities I've ever seen, anywhere. Iconic architecture, the memory of the 2008 Olympic Games will be sustained for years to come," he said.

He also offered some suggestions. He said that Beijing should consider the post-Olympic use of the venues, forget the medal count

and make people aware of a potential post-Olympic depression.

He thought the city should "establish a foundation or institution in charge of the use of the post-Olympic venues."

Having worked for ESPN at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Groggel was fascinated by the questions that arose from the concept of "Olympianism."

"Are the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter achieved when a country plays host? Is the host city forever enlightened, awash in its newly found peace and prosperity, or is it left shell-shocked, wading through debt and cultural exploitation?" he said.

## 'Laowai' inspires people to volunteer

By Huang Daohen

How many hours in the past year or so have you volunteered? 10 hours? 20 hours? 30 hours?

James Chan, an American-born-Chinese (ABC) now living and working in Guangzhou, put in over 800 hours of volunteer work over the past 18 months at universities, colleges, and public places.

For a lot of returnees to the homeland, being an ABC isn't always easy. James' parents immigrated to the US in their teens with no money and little education. "As they struggled in America, I felt it

as well," James said. Inspired by the tough but rewarding experience he had grown up, he decided to dedicate his spare time to volunteering and helping people.

James first came to China when he was 18 and found that a large number of Chinese people were still in poverty and that a lot of young people could not afford to go to university. He later decided that China was the place where he wanted to live for the foreseeable future and returned in 2004.

For most people, a large donation of tens of millions of yuan might make them feel that they

are making a difference, but money often does not tell the whole story. "What I have done in the past 18 months proves that any Chinese or foreigner can do it also," he said, "I have donated my time, my energy, my experiences, and my knowledge. My dream of coming to China was not to earn millions of dollars, but the hope of helping people improve their lives."

Though he only looks around 25 years old, it was surprising to hear that James has over 25 years of professional work experience.

By age 20, James started his own marketing company in the

San Francisco bay area in California, and had earned over a million dollars by age 23. He has also worked for top Fortune 500 companies, where he has been paid as much as US\$600 per hour (4,620 yuan per hour).

James' friends and even his parents don't understand why he does so much volunteer work. They complained to James often.

If more people hear about his volunteer work, they themselves may want to get involved. "People do want to help others, they just don't know what they can do, or how to do it," he said.

### Events

#### Illustrated Talk: Orally Passed Down Music from Daolang, Xinjiang

Daolang, a small ethnic subgroup of Xinjiang's Uyghurs in northwest China, is known for their master musicians performing the muqam – a traditional musical canon from Xinjiang, passed down orally through several centuries and performed as part of a celebratory maxirap (a party which involves music, dance and games, held during weddings, harvests or arrivals).

Shang Changping, famous anthropology photographer and contributor will share with CCC friends her photos, music records and stories.

Where: Room 201, Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm-10pm, August 1

Cost: 40 yuan  
Tel: 6432 9341

#### Yndi Halda Asia Tour Beijing Concert

Yndi Halda (Enjoy the Eternal Bliss) is a post rock band from the UK with two guitarists, a bass player, a drummer, and a violinist. The guitar and the violin is the most unique part of their music, as violin is usually only used for classic music and Yndi Halda's music is based on the form of sonata.

Where: The Star Live, 50m north Lama Temple Bridge, 3F No 79 Hepingli Xijie, Dongcheng

When: 8pm, August 3

Cost: 60 yuan (Students), 80 yuan (In Advance), 100 yuan (In Door)

Tel: 6426 4436 ext 21

#### BeiMac August Meeting: The Open Source Mac

BeiMac (Beijing Macintosh User Group) will have an Open Source Mac apps meeting in August. Part of it will be a more generic discussion about availability of Open Source apps on the Apple computer platform. If you have an Apple and want to know more, you need to attend this meeting.

Where: No 8 Shuangsi Hutong, Jiugulou Avenue,

When: 3pm-6pm, August 18

(By He Jianwei)



James Chan volunteers at a school.  
Photo provided by James Chan



All Olympic venues are going through a safety tests.

Photo by Tan Zhiyong

# Ticket plan for 'Olympic Test'

By He Jianwei

The organizing committee for "Good Luck Beijing" Sport Events launched its ticket plan for nine events this Tuesday. People who would like to watch the Olympic test events can purchase the tickets that range in price from 10 to 150 yuan.

## Price

According to its plan, the price of the tickets will be divided into two categories: the preliminary and qualification of competition and the final competition. The price for the preliminary and eliminating rounds of competition is from 10 to 30 yuan, and from 30 to 150 yuan for the final.

Among the first set of nine events, the other six events have the tickets at a price of 10 yuan, except for field hockey, archery and baseball.

According to the ticket office, most people want to know what the cost is to watch beach volleyball. The price for the beach volleyball qualification rounds are 30 and 50

yuan, and 50 and 80 yuan for the final.

## How to buy

There are three ways to purchase tickets. First, you can purchase tickets at the official website: [goodluckbeijing.com.cn](http://goodluckbeijing.com.cn).

Secondly, you can call the hotline. The numbers are 6406 8888, 6406 9999, 6417 0058 and 6417 0068.

Lastly, you could purchase the tickets from the box offices at the venues.

If you obtained the ticket from a channel other than the above mentioned, it is possible that the ticket was lost, missing or stolen.

## When to buy

If you are to purchase your tickets from the official website or through the hotline, you can go and check it two weeks prior to the event and confirm of the start time in accordance with the official website.

If you prefer to purchase your tickets at the stadium, no

earlier than three days before the competition begins.

From this Tuesday, you can book your tickets directly from the official website, except for beach volleyball, wrestling and baseball. The official website provides links for the ticket agencies for beach volleyball and wrestling. You can book a ticket for baseball through the websites of the ticket agencies directly.

## How to pay

You can pay your tickets online, but this is not applicable at the box offices. Or you could pay it by credit card, also not applicable at the events. You could just always pay in cash.

## Group purchase

It's different than buying tickets for the actual Olympics. Tickets for "Good Luck Beijing" sports event can be purchased in groups as long as the payment of tickets is over 10,000 yuan.

Because the price of single ticket is very low, if you want to purchase the ticket in a group, you should purchase more than

## Tips

- Qingdao International Regatta and HKSAR 10th Anniversary Cup Competition in equestrian will be also held in August, but the organizers didn't announce the ticket plan for these two events.

- Two ticket agencies, the China Performing Arts Agency ([piaowutong.com](http://piaowutong.com)) and China Ticket Online ([piao.com.cn](http://piao.com.cn)), will be in charge of the tickets.

- All spectators must have a valid ticket with the exception of children who are under two years old, in which case the child should occupy the same seat with his/her companion.

- Lost tickets will not be replaced. In case of a defaced or damaged ticket where it is not possible to read the ticket details, you should purchase another valid ticket.

- Once you leave the venue prior to the event's close, your ticket will not allow you to re-enter.

200 or 300 tickets. Two hotlines are available for group purchase: 8652 3252 and 6417 6842.

## Free delivery

If you purchase tickets over 100 yuan and you live inside the fifth ring road, except the south fourth ring road, or in Shangdi, Capital Airport, Yizhuang and some area of Shijingshan (from the Chang'an Street to Gucheng), the ticket agencies will deliver your tickets for free.

If you don't live in Beijing, you could book the ticket online first. After you arrive in Beijing, you could ask the ticket agency to deliver your ticket to your hotel.

## Disabled spectators

A certain number of tickets for people in a wheelchair will be available for every event. Also, assistance will be provided for their companion to sit next to them.

These tickets are only available at the box office and will be concentrated in a specific area of the venue.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: [weiyang@ynet.com](mailto:weiyang@ynet.com)

Whenever my friends or I get food to go, especially *jian bing*, we always open the plastic bag and eat while we walk to our next destination. However, we've almost never seen Chinese students do this. Is it just happenstance, or is there a Chinese aversion to eating while walking? Or eating while outside? Are we just being crude Americans who can't help stuffing our faces on the street?

Don't worry, you're not being crude Americans at all. Chinese students often walk and eat at the same time, especially when they can't find a place to sit in busy and crowded cafeterias during peak times.

Another reason is that Chinese people think eating while walking might be bad for your stomach. A lot of people say their stomach hurts if they eat while walking, especially on cold and windy days.

In my experience, crossing a major road is a cross between the video game *Frogger* and the old road game of chicken, where you have to simultaneously dodge some cars and stare down others. How is it that I have yet to see a serious car accident in Beijing? Or a pedestrian get pummeled by a bus/taxi/bicyclist?

According to the Beijing Municipal Traffic Management Bureau, over 1,000 traffic accidents are reported in the city each day. *China Daily* reported in 2004 that 80 percent of those were caused by "apprentice drivers" – those who have just obtained a driver's license after only a couple of weeks of training. And if you haven't seen enough incidents on the roads, try listening to FM 103.9, the traffic broadcasting station.

My friend is coming to Beijing next week and wanted to know some good hostels to stay in. Location is an important factor also.

If you're looking for a cheap place to stay, multi-person rooms are the way to go. Book a bed for 70 yuan per night at The Temple House, described by one guest as an "oasis of tranquility within the hustle and bustle of Beijing." Located in a traditional hutong district, the hostel garners rave reviews from past guests for its friendly staff, impeccable cleanliness and proximity to the subway. Visitors enjoy the *siheyuan* courtyards, traditional dumpling bar and "old China" ambiance. The North gate of the Forbidden City is a 20 minute walk away. Address: No 3 Liuhe Hutong Er Tiao, Xisi, Xicheng District. For more hostel options, check out: [hostelbeijing.com](http://hostelbeijing.com), a comprehensive website where you can read reviews, compare prices, and reserve a room online.

(By Dianna Bai)

| Events   | Time         | Venue  |
|--|--------------|--|
| 2007 World Rowing Championships                          | August 7-11, | 2007 Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park     |
| Good Luck Beijing 2007 International Hockey Tournament   | August 8-13  | 2007 Olympic Green Hockey Field              |
| 2007 FIVB Beach Volleyball Women's Challenger            | August 13-19 | 2007 Chaoyang Park Beach Volleyball Ground   |
| Good Luck Beijing 2007 Canoe/Kayak Slalom Open           | August 16-19 | 2007 Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park     |
| Good Luck Beijing 2007 International Baseball Tournament | August 18-23 | 2007 Wukesong Baseball Field                 |
| Good Luck Beijing 2007 UCI BMX Supercross World Cup      | August 20-21 | 2007 Laoshan Bicycle Moto Cross(BMX) Venue   |
| 2007 Junior World Wrestling Championship                 | August 21-26 | 2007 China Agricultural University Gymnasium |
| Good Luck Beijing 2007 International Archery Tournament  | August 20-26 | 2007 Olympic Green Archery Field             |
| Good Luck Beijing 2007 Canoe/Kayak Flatwater Open        | August 23-26 | 2007 Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park     |

# If colors cool

## Getting your point across in Black, White, C



Day Dream -What's happening? No 2 by Xin Haizhou

Photos provided by Today Art Museum



Three Sisters by Hai Bo

### Black, white and grey as one of

For curator Gao Ling, it is obvious that young to middle-aged artists all have, over a long period of time, adopted monochrome or black, white and gray to express their art.

Gao has tirelessly studied the overall character of contemporary art from the 1980s. In Gao's research, he says that the adoption of black, white and gray, which symbolize indifference and loneliness, have an obvious relationship with what time period the artists were in.

"It's really hard to say how many Chinese artists have used a soft grey tone for their artistic creations during the 1980s," Gao said.

### A wall

A fashionable young woman with a lit cigarette sits on a sofa in one of He Sen's paintings from his *Du Du Who Loves Beauty* collection that he has taken from photographs.

"Generally speaking, people like to use colors to illustrate fashion, hedonism and material life. But in my opinion, all of these things are boredom rather than desperation in essence," he said.

Ever since learning how to draw in art school, the teachers have told him not to use black. "They said that there is no black in nature, instead, we had better use various colors to illustrate what we want to express," he said.

He believed that colors usually made people think that art was more real, like a living thing. "However, after you make it in black and white, something you just painted has distance with real life, that also appears more rational and metaphysical," he said.

He thinks that black, white and gray give people a feeling of distance. There is an inner violence in black, white and grey. People generally consider the red as the color of violence.

However, black, white and gray can also incorporate this feeling. "For example, prisons and most industrial architecture use gray. As soon as you see them, you feel like you are being pushed by a strong force – the inner violence, I mean," he said.

"This can also be found when getting along with other people. It is very hard to establish intimacy with other people nowadays, in my opinion," he added.

Color is only a tool and an element of painting techniques. "As long as my personality doesn't change, my works would always have the feature of nothingness and pessimism, even if I use bright colors," he said.

### Black White Grey

#### A Conscious Cultural Stance

**Artists:** Chen Chieh-Jen, Fang Lijun, Guo Jin, Guo Wei, Hai Bo, He Sen, Li Dafang, Li Luming, Mao Xuhui, Shi Xinning, Xi Haizhou, Yang Fudong, Yang Shaobin, Yin Zhaoyang, Yu Hong, Zhang Xiaogang, Zhao Nengzhi and Zhuang Hui

**Where:** The second and third floor, Today Art Museum, Building 4 No 32 Baizwan Lu, Chaoyang

**When:** Daily 9am-5pm, until August 5

**Tel:** 5876 0011

# old talk

## Grey



Family Portrait by Zhang Xiaogang

By He Jianwei

The exhibition Black White Grey centers around the feeling of being hurt and repressed. The elapse of youth, the uncertainty of life and the loss of time are expressed through the works as the reality that all of us have to face one day. The exhibition also provides a flashback to Chinese contemporary art in the 1980s, showing the development as well as the future of contemporary art in China.

## visual aesthetic features

Oil painting is an artistic language rich in materials and means of presentation. The artists turn to simple blacks, whites and greys to create their art. "It can fully prove that artists are pursuing the reality of their inner world. Or, we can say, that it awakens the reality in the artist's mind," he said.

In Gao's mind, the interrelationship and interaction of the artistic creation and the time it was created that black, white and grey gives the artist profound enlightenment. "The freedom of artistic creations and the revealing of the reality will be the source and foundation for the artistic works to generate their true values," he said.



Looking Backward by Shi Xinning



Du Du Who Loves Beauty by He Sen

## Thought-provoking colors

John F Kennedy and his wife Jackie are looking back to the crowd in front of the Monument to People's Heroes, which looks like a black-and-white photo in an old newspaper. But, of course, the first US president to visit China was Richard Nixon in 1972.

"If Kennedy had not been assassinated in 1963, he would have been the first US president to visit China," Shi Xinning said, explaining the reason for why he chose this image.

The tones of black, white and gray, as Shi believes, can often make the picture seem more authentic and friendly.

"In such an authentic period, the absurd theme of the works will get more profound and thought-provoking," he said.

In paintings, color can be a kind of power-

ful and appealing language. However, using color is often a double-edged sword. If it is not well handled, it may distract people's attention and in that case, people may ignore the more important elements.

"In order to prevent color from disturbing the conveyance of the ideas, I discard color in most of my present pieces," he said.

Painting is a way of narration that he is familiar with. What he insists on is to convey his own ideas. "I care for presenting my way of narration through the medium of painting. I seldom consider what methods should be adopted to draw the next picture; what I consider more is, as a vehicle of information, what kind of memory and judgment it should carry," he said.

## A new reality

The young couple stare absent-mindedly with eyes wide open in one of Xin Haizhou's series of paintings in his *Daydream* collection that focuses on youth.

Xin's paintings reflect contemporary youth as their archetype and the growth of human beings as well as social relations. "My paintings try to reveal the deep feelings of young people and the internal mood of their perceived society, which

is on a constant shift and undergoes profound changes nowadays," he said.

From the series of works about "Rules of the Game" in 1992, he has made the relation clear in painting colors between sketchy black-and-gray effects while using primitive colors. With the passing of time and the stage-by-stage evolution of multiple series, it has been simplified as the monochrome of black and white.



1986, 20 Years Old, In the Studio of Central Academy of Fine Art by Yu Hong

# Dark angel's life

By He Jianwei

He was a genius, nominated for the Berlin International Film Festival when he was 24; he was a sadist, he vented his temper on his lovers and friends wantonly; he was a masochist, he only slept two or three hours, drank two bottles of whiskey and took drugs and sleeping pills every day.

When Rainer Werner Fassbinder's film cutter found his body in his apartment at three o'clock, June 10, 1982, he was 37.

This writer had never watched a Fassbinder movie before having read Fassbinder: Film Maker, written by Ronald Hayman and translated by Peng Qianwen.

The Chinese edition of the book is part of a series of books about the greatest directors in the film world. Its forward, written by Cai Kangyong, a writer and a TV host in Taiwan, was particularly moving.

People tend to split the world along lines: right versus wrong, white versus black. But there is a tendency to ignore that there are grays in the world. In Cai's foreword, Fassbinder was a person who lived in the gray.

The loneliness and lack of love in his childhood were the origins of his lifelong nightmare. His actions as an adult can be interpreted as resistance to those times: the distrust of love, the dictatorship in his work and the fear of loneliness.

Fassbinder is perhaps the most arresting and controversial film director of all time. In a career that lasted only 17 years, ending abruptly when he died of a drug overdose, he wrote and directed 34 films and two lengthy television miniseries. He was also a prolific playwright and actor.

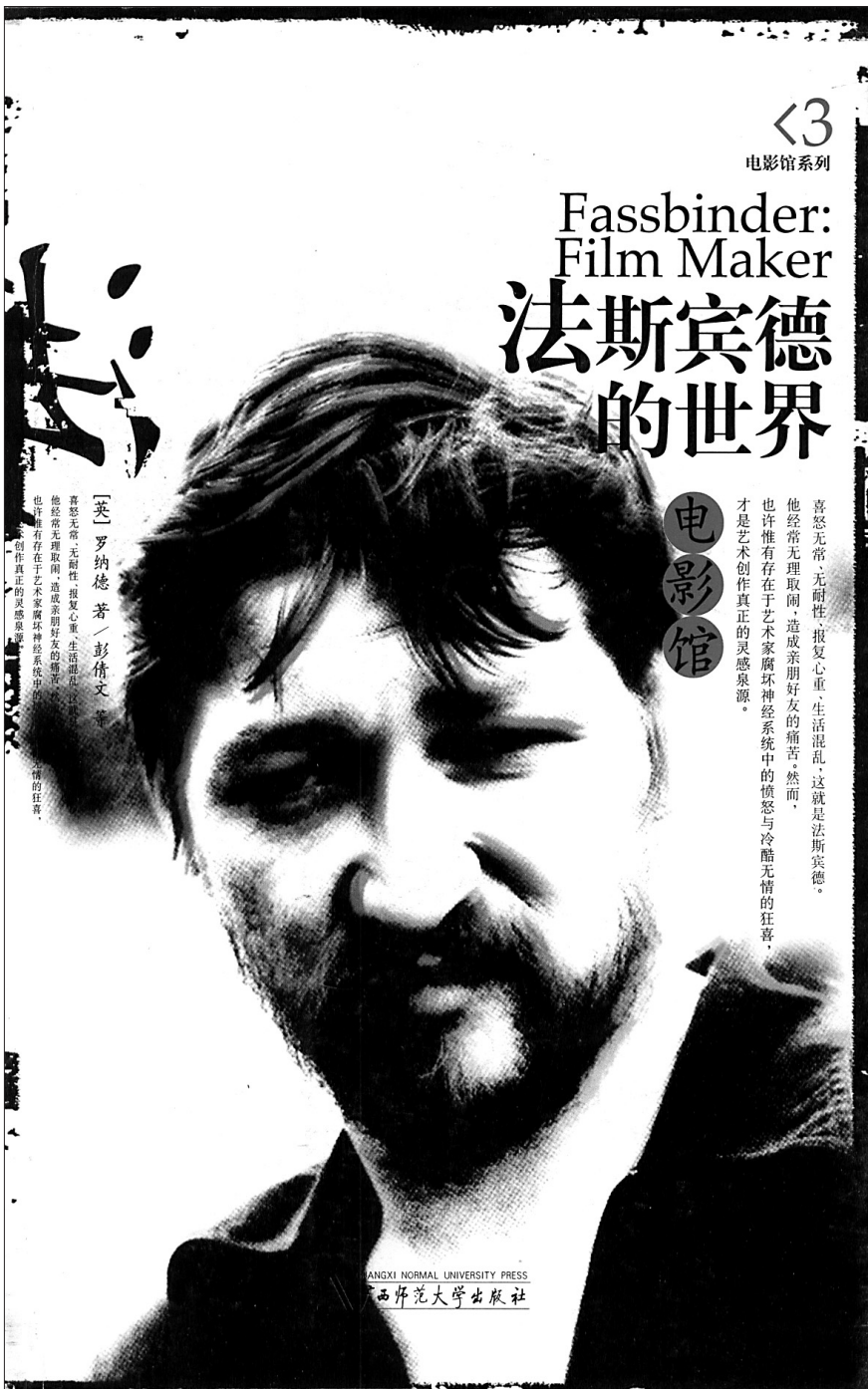
Fassbinder ruthlessly attacked both German bourgeois society and the larger limitations of humanity, and his films detail the desperate yearning for love and freedom and the many ways in which society defeats that desire.

June 10, 2007, was the 25th anniversary of Fassbinder's death. His life is as adventurous as the plots of his films. While many will try to imitate his style or copy his stories, his life ensured the world would only produce one Fassbinder.

## About the author

Ronald Hayman is a British playwright, critic and writer, known for his biographies. He has penned the biographies of Franz Kafka, Nietzsche and Brecht.

## Fassbinder: Film Maker



# Worthless experience, recalling youth

By Annie Wei

Shi Kang, 39, a writer, released his new collection of essays called *Naxie Buzhiqian de Jingyan* (*The Worthless Experience*, Shanghai People's Publishing House, 20 yuan).

The book is split into ten parts: love is about girls; life is about how sensitive human beings are; reading is to experience the world through books, interesting and boring people and religions.

Since Shi's first book release in 1993, his indifferent and hopeless writing style has found popularity with young readers. Most of his previous works are about young people. The newly-released book begins his journey into middle age.

Shi expresses his more mature opinions through the book, such as that mature love belongs to people who are also mature, sex is an illusion and that there is no pain in a real relationship.

The first paragraph of the book is just like the writer: a lost and unspoken ego, suffering from desire.

To people short on life experience, the other

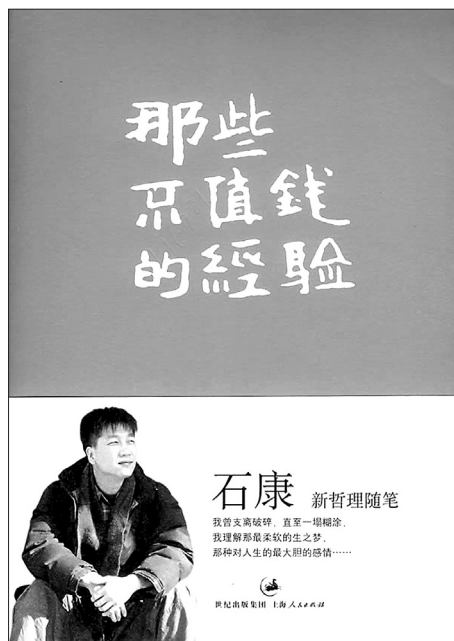
four parts of the book will do little to arouse sympathy as Shi's thoughts probe deeper.

Most people who read Shi are men born in the end of the 1970s. To them, his books are like a mirror, which reflects the possible sadness in their future. When Shi came out with his previous work about exuberant youth, these readers were 16 or 17. They read his anger and dispirited mood. To female readers, Shi's books are also a mirror, which reflects the vivid emotions of their counterparts in detail.

Now, these readers are in an age of getting married and settling down. Shi Kang's new book might rekindle ideas about the world, existence and the meaning of life.

Why is Shi's work worth reading for a non-Chinese person? Reading his books is like dinner with a bunch of Beijing men. The conversation is not very meaningful, but it's real. I think they are good examples for any one who wants to know a little bit of how modern, young Chinese people speak.

And Chinese people are impressed by foreigners who can speak and understand Chinese slang.



## CNPIEC Bookstore's Recommendations

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following US best sellers for *Beijing Today* readers.

### Ghosts of Onyx (Halo)

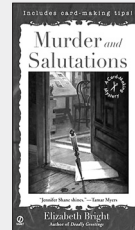
By Eric Nylund, 384pp, Tor Books, 80 yuan



The Spartan-II program has gone public. The planet Onyx is virtually abandoned. When the Master Chief destroys Halo, something is triggered deep within Onyx: Ancient Forerunner technology stirs, and fleets of UNSC and Covenant race to claim it to change the course of the Human-Covenant War.

### Murder and Salutations: A Card-Making Mystery

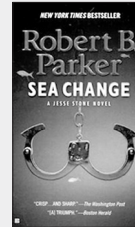
By Elizabeth Bright, 240pp, Signet, 70 yuan



Jennifer Shane is stunned when she's named Businessperson of the Year, but she's even more shocked when, at the presentation ceremony, Chamber of Commerce President Eliza Glade, over-dressed, over-made-up and over-the-top, is killed. Jen and her sister Sara Lynn were among her worst enemies, so they'll have to bend over backwards to clear their names.

### Sea Change

By Robert B Parker, 320pp, Berkley, 100 yuan



The murder of a woman aboard a sailboat leads Stone into a world of wealth and depravity centered on a couple of yacht owners from Florida and their crowd. Drugs, pornography, rape and underage sex provide a degrading framework for the murder investigation.

### CNPIEC Bookstore

Where: the second floor of CNPIEC, No 16 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang  
Open: 8:30am-6:30pm  
Tel: 6500 1859, 6592 6871

(By He Jianwei)

# Brekkie with the ladies

By Bessie Ng

Beijing's expat-housewives are just as "desperate" as the characters from "Desperate Housewives." Rather than the laundry or their late-returning husbands, these housewives are desperate for breakfast! Starting at 10am sharp, expat-housewives from the International Newcomers Network gather monthly at a new breakfast location. Watch them as they carry their forks and knives, sweeping across "brekkie" spots in Beijing.



## 'The Breakfast Club'

First started by a group of expatriate housewives who met up once in a while for coffee and chit-chat, small-circle gathering between neighbors expanded into a public expatriate association, the International Newcomer's Network (INN), in 1994.

As a non-governmental support network helping expats settle in Beijing, INN is run by a group of volunteer, expatriate-wives who organize social activities like "brekkies," neighborhood coffee mornings and, most recently, cocktail nights to help newcomers build social networks in Beijing.

Still in its experimental stage, the breakfast gatherings have only gone on for one year. Nonetheless, Nonni Langale, a housewife from Canada, finds "brekkies" the ideal starting point for connecting. "It's like being a newcomer at school, I actually think it's harder for children to build networks in a new environment, adults have more initiative. It's always been warm and welcoming here," she said.

## July: My Big Fat German "Brekkie"

Tucked away in an old-cottage house covered by a net of wild-dandelions, the scent of fresh-brewed coffee hovers at the doorstep of July's breakfast spot: German-cuisine specialists Schindlers Anlegestelle in Sanlitun.

Heading for the meeting point, the murmurs get louder and louder. But they are not clickety-clackety putonghua, but an ensemble of quick English repartee. Just through the door is a conference of hair colors – blondes, brunettes, red-heads, dark-haired – sitting and cuddling together like bees.

By the end of one espresso, you can already know the profile, hobby-list and family tree of a new "friend" next to you



– women at INN are friendly like that.

Without the trouble of having to spoon-feed their son cereal or the fuss over a daughter's lunch box, expat-moms can enjoy a sip of coffee and a moment of peace. Every month, organizers Susan Trimble and Rebecca Malzacher invite special guests to give a morning lecture.

July's guest speaker and store owner of Ling Ling Pearls is a deft hand at luring housewives. Along with tips on how to spot fake pearls and hands-on jewelry-making workshops, housewives sit biting their nails in anticipation of who will win the week's lucky draw: a pair of pearl earrings.

"When we invite speakers to events, they are usually more popular," Susan Grant, president of INN, said. "Usually, we expect 40 to 100 people. I'm impressed by the turnout rate today, because a lot of members are away on holiday," she said.

## Wanna meet up?

**Open to:** Expats living in Beijing

**For:** Monthly opportunities to meet new friends and chat!

**Topics discussed:** schools, medical facilities, culture clubs and charitable organizations.

**Where:** The Capital Club Athletic Center (Jingcheng Dasha Julebu), 3rd Floor, Low Rise Capital Mansion, 6 Xinyuan Lu, Chaoyang

**When:** Anyone interested is free to join. Start off by attending an INN monthly meetings, open to all foreign passport holders. INN Meetings are held on the last Monday of each month, except December, from 10am to noon.

**Cost:** There are no membership fees, but expect to pay at least 40 yuan for coffee, tea and pastries.

**Tel:** 8486 2225 ext 136

## Mystery brekkies

A new idea brought up by INN volunteer, Susan Trimble, "Mystery Brekkies" or "Mystery Breakfasts," gives a new twist to conventional "jam and bread" mornings.

Liz Taylor, like many other expatriate-wives, followed her husband to Beijing five weeks ago. She already knows half the members by their names and has already attended two months of "brekkies" in less than a month in town.

"My sister said the first

thing I should do after I land is to contact this group – she highly recommended it" she said. With her two daughters studying back home in Brisbane, she says that mystery breakfast excursions have definitely helped ease her homesickness. "Last month, we traveled all the way to the mountains near the Great Wall to have breakfast. It was one of the best trips I've had since my arrival."

INN Volunteer Rebecca Malzacher said June was the

first time the group hosted a "mystery brekkie." Given no information about the location, they were led by Susan Trimble, tour guide of the day, to Valley View Resort in the country-side for breakfast. "In September, we are planning a surprise called a 'Surprise brekkie!'" Malzacher said.

## We're a community

As an expat-only club, INN members are all foreign passport holders.

"Our community has a broad age range, you see newly weds in their twenties, as well as retired couples in their seventies," Grant said.

She explained that events organized by INN are not only a means for new members to make friends, but a way for older members to expand their social network. "Half of the people who attend 'brekkies' and monthly meetings aren't newcomers: some women have lived here for more than two years, and [in that time] their friends might have left. They need opportunities to make new friends," she said.

With the expat-scene in Beijing growing faster than ever, the need for socializing has exploded. In particular, Grant hopes to accommodate the needs of busy husbands and working women. "It occurred to us that, so far, our activities like 'coffee mornings' and 'brekkies' were restricted to stay-at-home wives," she said. "We began 'cocktail nights' two months ago at the Hilton Hotel and Kerry Center to try including husbands and working women in our events."

## WANTED:Volunteers

Another popular but lighter housewife gathering, "Coffee Mornings," was set up for Shun Yi only. Grant said that as more volunteers helped, the community was able to set up a second "coffee morning" point in Sanlitun five months ago.

She said that INN activities rely intensively on volunteer support, and is disappointed that they have not reached Haidian. "We can only do as much as volunteers are willing to take the time and effort," she said.

# Delicious, but without sugar

Taste these. Yes they are sweet. No worries, girls. They contain no sugar. You won't get fat.

We welcome your recipes and want to share them with our readers. If you have some, please send them to [gantian@ynet.com](mailto:gantian@ynet.com).

## Bavarian cream pie

**Provided by:**  
**Jeanine, a lovely housewife**

"Your favorite 8-9" pie crust brushed with egg whites, baked and cooled."

### Ingredients:

Meringue ingredients:  
2 egg whites  
1/4 teaspoon of cream of tartar  
6 packets of artificial sweetener as sweet as 2 teaspoons sugar

1/2 teaspoon of vanilla  
Pudding ingredients:  
2 3/4 cups low fat milk

2 teaspoons of vanilla  
1 large package (6 serving size) vanilla sugar-free instant pudding  
Topping ingredients:  
3 tablespoons of whipping cream  
1/2 packet of artificial sweetener as sweet as 1 teaspoons sugar  
1/4 teaspoon of vanilla

### Directions:

Meringue  
Beat egg whites until frothy. Then beat in cream of tartar until

peaks form and curl over. Without over beating, blend in the artificial sweetener separately. Finally, beat in vanilla. Set meringue aside, and immediately prepare the pudding in a separate bowl.

Pudding  
Stir vanilla into milk. Then beat in pudding mix. Gently and thoroughly fold the meringue into the pudding. Pour this pie filling into the pie shell, and refrigerate until congealed. Let it sit for two hours.

### Topping (optional)

This dessert is plenty rich as it is; nevertheless, you may wish to add a little whipped cream. If so, for best results, wait until just before serving the pie to prepare the topping. Beat the whipping cream until it



begins to hold its form. Then add the artificial

sweetener and vanilla, and beat until stiff. Top each slice with a small dollop for decoration.

## Chocolate chip cookies for special diets

**Provided by:**  
**Bernard, a 46-year-old father**

"Be sure to use a heat-stable sugar substitute. Since the substitutes vary in strength, use an amount equal to 3/4 cup regular sugar according to the package. It's a must for my sons on Friday night after dinner."

### Ingredients:

2 teaspoons softened butter  
1 tablespoon of granulated artificial sweetener

1/2 teaspoon of water  
1/8 teaspoon of vanilla extract  
1/8 egg, beaten  
1 tablespoon of all-purpose flour  
1/8 teaspoon of baking soda  
1/8 teaspoon of salt  
2 teaspoons of semisweet chocolate chips  
2 teaspoons of chopped pecans

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 190 Celsius

degrees. In a medium bowl, mix the butter and sugar substitute together. Mix in water, vanilla, and egg. Sift together with the flour, baking soda, and salt; stir into the creamed mixture. Mix in the chocolate chips and pecans. Drop cookies by heaping teaspoonfuls onto a cookie sheet. Bake in a preheated oven for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from the cookie sheets to cool on wire racks.



## Wedding snowballs

**Provided by:**  
**Lori Dehn, a 24-year-old Russian woman**

"These are technically Mexican Wedding Cakes or Russian Teacakes, but my grandmother gave up on us calling them that years ago!"

### Ingredients:

2 tablespoons and 1/2 teaspoon of butter  
1 tablespoon and 1/4 teaspoon of artificial sweetener  
1/8 teaspoon of salt  
1/8 teaspoon of vanilla extract  
1/4 cup and 2 teaspoons of all-purpose flour  
2 tablespoons and 1/2 teaspoon of chopped pecans  
2-1/4 teaspoons of unsweetened coconut chips

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 175 degrees. Cream the butter with 1/2 cup of the artificial sweetener and the vanilla. Mix in the flour, nuts and salt. Roll about 1 tablespoon or so of dough into balls and place on an un-greased cookie sheet. Bake at 175 degrees for 15 minutes. Do not allow these cookies to get too brown. It's better to undercook them than to overcook them. While the cookies are still hot, roll them in artificial sweetener. Once they have cooled, roll them in artificial sweetener again.

(By Chu Meng)

## Green tea cream cheese fingers

**Provided by:**  
**Irene DiCaprio, a university student**

"These are tender and delicately flavored cookies – the light green color and chocolate drizzle make them stand out on a cookie tray. Perfect for reunions or birthday parties."

### Ingredients:

2 teaspoons of butter, softened  
2 teaspoons of artificial sweetener  
1/8 (8 ounce) of packaged cream cheese, softened  
1/8 egg  
1/8 teaspoon of vanilla extract  
1 tablespoon of all-purpose flour  
1/8 (3 ounce) package of instant green tea powder pudding mix  
1/8 teaspoon of baking powder  
1/8 teaspoon of salt  
1/8 (1 ounce) of square semisweet chocolate  
2 teaspoons of apricot chips

### Directions:

Mix the butter, artificial sweetener and cream cheese together until it is light and fluffy. Beat in the egg and vanilla. Combine the flour, dry green tea powder pudding mix, baking powder and salt; stir into the creamed mixture. Cover it and refrigerate for one hour.

Preheat oven to 175 Celsius degrees. Grease cookie sheets. Shape teaspoonfuls of dough into finger shapes, about 1 1/2 inches long. Place cookies on prepared cookie sheets. Bake for 9 to 12 minutes in the preheated oven, or until set and very lightly browned on bottoms. Cool completely on a wire rack.

In small saucepan over low heat, melt chocolate and apricot chips, stirring constantly until smooth and well blended. Drizzle a small amount of chocolate over each cookie. Allow the chocolate to set before storing.



# Affordable urban 'housing'

By Gan Tian

It's summer time, and that means there are more options than lying on couch after getting booted out of bed by your wife. Consider sleeping in a tent like the city's hobos! It's not easy finding a tent in town, and it's even harder to find a place to set one up.



## Blue tent

Chinese-made products have obviously spread all over the world. Despite being an American website, this blue tent is marked as a "China Product." Just check out the Chinese characters on the outside.

Available: ecwholesaler.com

Price: US\$49 (370 yuan)

## Silver double tent

This tent has a "window" in the top and two more on the sides. What kind of tent has windows in it? My mind says the kind that leaks. The tent fits two and offers a mosquito-free way to gaze at the stars on your next romantic getaway.

Available: Sanfo, No 1, Nongzhan Nan Lu, Chaoyang Park south gate, Chaoyang

Price: 899 yuan



## Red-gray tent

Steven Shaw set up this red-gray tent just so he could recommend it to our readers. "It's comfortable, it's big and it's beautiful." I think what he means to say is that it is expensive. Maybe foreign CEOs can afford this one, but it's a bit more than the average migrant worker can manage.

Available: Sanfo, No 3, Building 2, Madian Nancun, Chaoyang

Price: 2,899 yuan



## Blue-yellow tent

Blue and yellow is one of my favorite color combinations: youth and power meeting in one fabric. Unfortunately, it is a little bit small – you won't be having any passionate nights in this tent. But maybe that's a good thing. You can stay cool and won't have to deal with your partner's arms hitting you while they sleep.

Available: Sanfo, No 3, Building 2, Madian Nancun, Chaoyang

Price: 2,899 yuan



## Pet tent

This "pet tent" isn't for you, but for your four-legged friend: you know who I'm talking about. Don't leave any family members behind on your next trip. This waterproof tent is available in a whole range of sizes, which is good, because nothing can wreck the end of a vacation like a five-hour drive back to the city seated next to a stinky, wet pet.

Available: ecwholesaler.com

Price: US\$11.8 (89 yuan)



## Pink tent

Is this thing really a tent? It looks like a decoration from some little girl's bedroom. The website is designed exclusively in hot pink, so guys, shopping here is off limits!

Available: madeinpink.co.uk

Price: £18.99 (295 yuan)



## Tips on choosing a tent

**Buying a tent is like buying a home, buyers beware:**

### Windy conditions

Look for a tent with a sturdy frame, multiple anchor stake hooks and an aerodynamic shape.

### Rainy / humid conditions

Two-pass waterproofing is a must for any tent. Make sure the floor is high enough to protect you from ground water.

### Sunny conditions

Buy a tent with UV protection, especially one with a screen.

### Insects

A mesh canopy and netted screen flap will keep you safe from mosquitoes or whatever your fellow camper has planned.

### Ground conditions

The condition of the campground determines what kind of stakes you need. For snow, make sure to pick up some snow stakes. Use T-Stakes for sandy or soft surfaces.



**CHINA OPEN**

ATP WTA TOUR

Fernando Gonzalez

Svetlana Kuznetsova

Peng Shuai

Justine Henin

Elena Dementieva

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**www.piao.com.cn**

**Venues: Beijing Tennis Center**  
**Time: 2007.9.8-9.23**  
**Official Inquiries: 8610-58206667**  
**www.chinaopen.com.cn**

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Panasonic



Mercedes-Benz



Sony Ericsson



# A hairy situation

By Han Manman

While summer is perfect for girls to wear bikinis and skirts, it also can be an embarrassing season for those who expose their legs and bare arms. Some women go to the salon to remove hair on their legs, underarms and bikini area, where growth is normal but sometimes undesirable.

Many struggle with the issue of hair removal throughout the summer.

To help you decide which method might be best for you, we asked several experts to make a guide to the eight most popular methods of hair removal for the ladies.

## Popular methods and potential drawbacks

### Shaving

**What it does:** Whether done with an electric or straight razor, shaving is akin to cutting hair – only it does so ultra-close to the skin. Shaving does not remove hair at the root, nor does it disturb the follicle. That means the effects are temporary, lasting anywhere from a few hours to a few days.

**Best for:** Women with sensitive skin, and who also fear pain.

#### Potential drawback:

Although it is the most convenient way, if you have a boyfriend, don't let him touch you after shaving if you don't want him to feel a prick as the hair grows quite fast and can only keep your skin

smooth for one or two days. One of the beauticians we spoke with said one way to minimize shaving problems include making sure the hair is wet first, shaving in the direction the hair grows and avoiding repeating strokes.

### Depilatories

**What it is:** These creams and lotions use a chemical compound designed to dissolve the proteins that make up hair. Unlike shaving, which leaves sharp, hard, hair stubble just below the skin, depilatories leave a rounded, smoother edge – so stubble is minimized and regrowth appears to take longer. Still, treatments usually need to be repeated at least weekly, if not more often.

**Best for:** Depilatories work quickly, are readily available at drugstores and grocery stores and are inexpensive. They're best on the leg, underarm and bikini areas; special formulations may be used on the face and chin.

**Potential drawback:** Applying depilatories can be messy, and many people dislike the odor. If you have sensitive skin, you might have an allergic reaction to the chemicals in the depilatory, which may cause a rash or inflammation. Depilatories may not be as effective on people with coarse hair.

**Tips:** Beauticians suggest reading the directions on the box carefully and apply the product only for the recommended amount of time for best results.

### Waxing

**What it is:** In this method, wax is warmed to allow it to be spread easily over the skin in the direction of hair growth. The hair becomes embedded in the wax, which cools and firms up, grasping the hair. The wax is then quickly pulled off in the opposite direction of the hair growth, pull-

ing the hairs out of the follicles. It lasts three to six weeks.

**Best for:** Waxing is an effective method of removing large amounts of hair at one time. Waxing can remove hair anywhere on the body, including the upper lip, chin, eyebrows, arms and legs.

**Potential drawback:** Many people mention that the biggest drawback to waxing is the pain when the hair is ripped out by the root. A person may notice temporary redness, inflammation and bumps after waxing. Professional waxing is also expensive compared to other hair removal methods.

**Tips:** Because waxing removes the entire hair – the root, bulb and shaft – it's vital to use an antibacterial lotion afterwards. "Because the follicle is so open you need to take some precautions to prevent infection," beauticians say.

### Plucking

**What it is:** Using tweezers, a person stretches the skin tightly, grips the hair close to the root, and pulls it out. Lasting three to eight weeks.

**Potential drawback:** Plucking is time-consuming because you can only remove one hair at a time. However, it's inexpensive because all you need are tweezers.

Plucking can be painful, so it's best to do it only on small areas, such as the eyebrows, upper lip, and chin. If the hair breaks off below the skin, a person may get an ingrown hair. After plucking, you may notice temporary red bumps because the hair follicle is swollen and irritated.

**Tips:** Doctors suggest that you sterilize your tweezers with rubbing alcohol before and after use to reduce the chance of infection.

### Electrolysis

**What it is:** Electrolysis is the only method of hair removal that

is permitted to be called "permanent." Electrolysis uses a tiny needle that slides down into the hair follicle until it reaches the cells responsible for hair growth.

**Best for:** Electrolysis is effective for a wide range of individuals with varying hair and skin types. Unlike laser hair removal, even individuals with gray, very light blonde or red hair can undergo electric treatments to eliminate unwanted hair. Furthermore, treatments are safe to use on a variety of hair types.

**Potential drawback:** While in most cases electrolysis can cause permanent hair removal, approximately ten percent of individuals experience some degree of hair re-growth. Electrolysis can cause tiny scars where the needle is inserted. Though for most people they heal unnoticed, for dark-skinned people it means an increased risk of hyperpigmentation and the formation of keloids. Other negative aspects of electrolysis include high cost and pain during and after treatment, though topical anesthetics can soothe irritation and the possible spread of infections.

### Laser

**What it does:** One of the more popular ways to remove hair is via laser – energy goes through the hair shaft down to the follicle, where it destroys the root.

"The hair does not immediately come out during laser treatment. Instead, it weakens and falls out over time [six months] because we've blown away the root," according to one of the beauticians.

**Best for:** People with dark hair and light skin. Lasers won't work on white hair, and they are even less effective on blond hair.

**Tips:** Using cold packs may help diminish any inflammation after treatment. Avoiding the sun before a treatment may make results more effective.

## Doctor's advice

"From the healthy skin angle, we don't recommend depilation," Li Yuanwen, a doctor in the dermatology department at Beijing Oriental Hospital, said. He also said deciding to remove body hair is a personal choice. However, getting rid of body hair obviously doesn't make you healthier, and you shouldn't feel pressured to do so if you don't want to, he said. Some cultures view body hair as beautiful and natural, so do what feels right to you, he said.

Although the myth persists that shaving makes hair grow back coarser or more plentiful, Li says this isn't so. Li said the root of the hair is coarse and the tip of the hair is fine. So, removing the hair will give a false appearance that the hair is coarser, when in fact, isn't. In fact, as early as 1928, researcher Mildred Totter showed that shaving didn't affect hair growth – a finding that has been echoed in several studies since.

# Getting back to Kansas

When it was time for the Wizard and Dorothy to head back to the land of 'e pluribus unum, they took an air balloon. Fortunately, balloon safety has improved considerably over the last 100 years, and today is one of the best ways for you to make a journey over the rainbow: literally. Check out these breathe-taking hot air balloon festivals from the globe!

## Shenandoah Valley Hot Air Balloon & Wine Festival, US

This year is the 11th anniversary of the Shenandoah Valley Hot Air Balloon & Wine Festival, which takes place on the rolling acreage of Historic Long Branch, an 18th Century estate in Virginia.

Kicking off the festival weekend is the traditional Friday Night Hot Air Balloon and Pumpkin Glow, where intricate, illuminated, carved pumpkins cast a soft light on the mansion grounds. The spacious lawns provide ample opportunity for evening picnics and sampling of a variety of festival foods, as well as the perfect venue for enjoying music until dusk when the tethered balloons cast their glow.

The huge balloons, including some with unique whimsical shapes, will take to the skies at approximately 7:30am and 4:30pm on October 20 and 21. All ballooning activities are subject to wind and weather, and may be delayed or canceled. All other festival activities take place rain or shine. While the balloons are the real stars, these massive airborne crafts are just the beginning of the entertainment and numerous activities taking place over the weekend, from sunrise to sunset.

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and relax on the sweeping lawn of the mansion while enjoying a variety of musical entertainment on the north mansion stage. Wine connoisseurs can also sip vintages from some 20 Virginia wineries.

**Where:** Historic Long Branch, Virginia, US

**When:** October 19 to 21

**Admission:** US\$5 for October 19, US\$10 for the 20th and 21st

**Tel:** +1-540-837 1856

**Website:** [historicalongbranch.com/balloonfest](http://historicalongbranch.com/balloonfest)

## Ferrara Balloons Festival, Italy

The Ferrara Balloons Festival is one of the largest hot-air balloon festivals in Europe. Numerous teams from Italy and beyond compete to see who is the most skillful balloonist.

This year, the balloons will launch from Bassani Urban Park, just outside the Renaissance walls of the UNESCO World Heritage City.

Organized by the city council and the provincial administration of Ferrara, the festival has become known as a "Village of the Air," and boasts ever increasing attractions and novelties to entertain guests.

Visitors can enjoy the thrill of flight and experience other delights like tethered balloon flights, kite displays, parachute jumps, airplane flights over the city and the Po Delta.

The big news for 2007, are the "Special Shape" balloons, amazing and amusing forms collected from the world's most famous festivals. Droll doggies, friendly flying turtles, gigantic oranges, cubes hanging in the sky; buildings, babies and the bizarre.

Among this year's innovations will be FRECCE TRICOLORI, and the Tricolour Arrows air display team, on September 29.

The festival is child-friendly, and aims to entertain as well as educate.

**Where:** Bassani Urban Park, Ferrara, Italy

**When:** September 21 to 30

**Admission:** not released yet

**Tel:** +39-532-299 636 or +39-532-299 646

**Website:** [ferrarafestival.it](http://ferrarafestival.it)

## The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, US

When autumn is just starting to arrive and the cooler weather blows in, New Mexico's skies become dotted with brilliantly-colored hot air balloons.

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta definitely had humble beginnings. A bantam gathering in 1972 brought ballooning enthusiasts together to exhibit 13 vibrantly decorated hot air balloons and enjoy a pastime together that not many people had discovered back then. The event was born out of a labor of love.

The trend grew and spread infectiously. The event is held every year at the beginning of October. It lasts nine days and is the largest of its kind in the world. This is one of the top-rated things to do this time of year and makes one of many fantastic day trips

while in Albuquerque.

There's no better time for hot air ballooning than this event. They can be taken during the Balloon Fiesta but they are extremely coveted so be sure to book as far in advance as possible.

Albuquerque's hot air balloon rides are exceptional during the festival, as not only are the groups of colorful balloons great to watch from below, but they're equally stunning to watch from their level way up in the sky.

**Where:** Albuquerque's Balloon Fiesta Park, Albuquerque, New Mexico, US

**When:** October 5 to 14

**Admission:** US\$6 for persons over the age of 12.

**Tel:** +1-888-422 7277 ext 303

**Website:** [balloonfiesta.com](http://balloonfiesta.com)

(By Jiang Xubo)

Photos by Phbase.com

... continued from Page 20

## London Hot Air Balloon Festival, Britain

The Libro London Hot Air Balloon Festival began in 1983 at Harris Park in London and has been going strong for 25 consecutive years.

This year's festival will begin in early August and last for five days. In addition to two daily hot air balloon launches, the festival's combination of day and night time entertainment, full amusement park midway, combined with an extensive selection of food and fun, makes the festival very interesting. These include daily hot air balloon launches and rides; four days of live entertainment; Friday night balloon glow; Felix, Tyrone the T-Rex, the Canadian flag and Canadian Maple leaf special shaped hot air balloons, each of which is over 24 meters tall.

During the festival, personalized gift certificates will be available to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or graduation.

**Where:** Harris Park London

**When:** August 2 to 6

**Admission:** Sunrise and evening flights are available. US\$250 per passenger

**Tel:** +44-020-519-473 6444



## Plano Balloon Festival, US

The Plano Balloon Festival is a spectacular three-day event beginning at 4pm on September 21 at Oak Point Park in Plano, Texas. The organizers aim to provide spectators with an action-packed weekend.

This weekend event offers something for everyone: entertainment on field stage, Saturday evening spectacular fireworks show, special kids activities and an evening fireworks show. The balloons launch at 6pm, September 21, and 7am and 6pm on September 22 and 23.

Spectators will have an opportunity to purchase a balloon ride during the festival weekend. Flights will be offered on a first-come-first-serve basis and will be flown, weather permitting and at the individual pilot's discretion.

Passengers must be age 10 or older and in good health. Passengers under the age of 18 must have parental permission, or parent's must accompany them. Riders are accepted at the discretion of the operator. All passengers will be required to sign a release form provided by the festival ride provider.

**Where:** 2801 E Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, Texas, US

**When:** September 21-23

**Admission:** US\$250 dollars per person

**Tel:** +1-972-867 7566

(By Jackie Zhang)

## Quebec Hot Air Balloon Flights, Canada

If you are longing for a visit to the frosty north, a hot air balloon trip might be the best way to enjoy a bird's eye view of Quebec City, a charming, beautiful and French-style city.

After checking in for your flight, you will be transported to the take-off site where the balloon will be inflated. You can also participate in inflating the balloon.

During the flight, air temperature is more or less the same in the air as on the ground. There is no wind in the basket as the balloon moves at the same speed as the air around it. The ground crew is in radio contact with the pilot and follows the balloon to its landing.

The balloon pilots have at least 15 years of experience and 1,000 flight hours, half of which were with multiple passengers.

The tour must be booked at least 72 hours in advance of your travel date and is not suitable for children five years and under. A maximum of six passengers can be taken in one balloon.

Wear comfortable clothes and walking or training shoes. A cap can also be very useful. Bring a jacket or a sweater to wear during take-off or landing.

**Where:** Hotel pick-up is available from downtown Quebec City

**When:** Year round, except August 3-5, August 11-20, August 31 and September 1-4

**Admission:** Sunrise (5am) and sunset flights (6pm) CA\$252.63

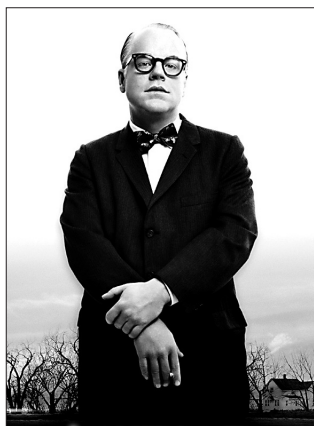
**Website:** book the tour and select date at [aviator.com/tours/Quebec-City](http://aviator.com/tours/Quebec-City)

**Starring**

Philip Seymour Hoffman, Catherine Keener, Clifton Collins Jr., Bruce Greenwood, Chris Cooper, Bob Balaban, Mark Pellegrino

**Synopsis**

On November 15, 1959, the brutal murder of a family in a small Kansas town sent shock waves through the nation. Truman Capote was sent to Kansas to pen an article about the crimes for *The New Yorker* magazine. He ended up writing one of the most celebrated books of the century, *In Cold Blood*. Capote attempts to charm the locals and work his way into the story behind the murders. He's soon shocked, however, to find himself forming a friendship with one of the killers, Perry Smith. As the book nears completion and execution day approaches, Capote finds himself torn in directions he never anticipated and is forever changed by his experiences.



**Scene 1:**  
**Sheriff's Residence,**  
**Kitchen – Afternoon**

**Truman:** Was it your choice to waive the hearing <sup>(9)</sup>?

*(Perry doesn't answer. Truman takes a bottle of Bayer aspirin out of his pocket.)*

**Truman:** You still need some? *(Perry doesn't move.)* Give me your hand.

*(Perry extends his hand through the bars. As Truman shakes some aspirin into it –)*

**Perry:** I could kill you if you got too close.

*(Perry puts the aspirin in his mouth, chews them, and holds out his hand for more. Truman gives him more, which Perry puts in his pocket for later.)*

**Truman:** Would you like some water?

*(Perry shakes his head. Silence.)*

**Truman:** Mrs Sanderson lent you my book –

**Perry:** He said we'd curry favor with <sup>(2)</sup> the Judge if we waived our rights.

**Truman:** Who did?

**Perry:** The lawyer.

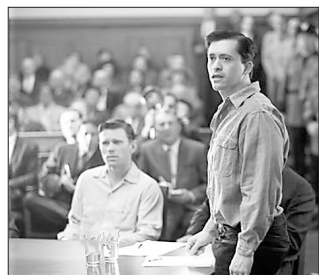
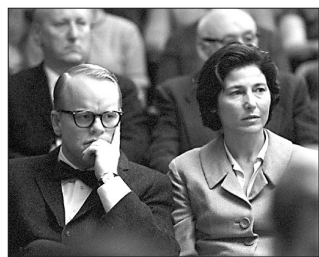
**Truman:** OK.

*(Truman nods, not wanting to push this any further. Perry picks up the book, holds it out through the bars.)*

**Perry:** Your picture's undignified. People recall first impressions.

**Truman:** What's been your first impression?

**Perry:** You want something.



**Scene 2: Death Row,**  
**Perry's Cell – Evening**

**Perry:** Before she had us. Before she started drinking.

**Truman:** Who took care of you as a child?

**Perry:** Orphanage. Me and Linda.

**Truman:** That's your sister? *(Perry nods. Truman waits for more. It doesn't come.)*

**Truman:** We're not so different as you might think. I was abandoned repeatedly as a child. My mama'd drag me along to some new town so she could take

up with <sup>(3)</sup> another man she'd met. Night after night she'd lock me in the hotel room – Mama'd turn the latch <sup>(4)</sup> and tell the staff not to let me out no matter what. I was terrified – I'd scream my head off <sup>(5)</sup> – till finally I'd collapse on the carpet next to the door and fall asleep. After years of this she just left me with relatives in Alabama.

**Perry:** Who raised you up?

**Truman:** My Aunts. *(Perry nods)* That's when I met Nelle – she lived next door. *(Looks again at the photo, hands it back)* Your mother was Indian?

**Perry:** Cherokee <sup>(6)</sup>.

**Truman:** Drinking was not a good thing for her.

**Perry:** No tolerance for it.

**Truman:** And your father?

**Perry:** No tolerance for him either.

**Truman:** What I can't decide is if you understand how fascinating you are.

*(Perry doesn't respond, then –)*

**Perry:** I'm sorry about your tie. They took it away from me because we're all on suicide watch. It's why the lights stay on at night.

**Truman:** I hope we're past that now. You had me worried.

**Perry:** OK.

**Truman:** I don't care about the tie. It's just a pity because it looked so good on you.

**Perry:** Be careful of Ricardo. I think he wants you all to himself.



# Capote (2005)

## Movie of the Week

The most interesting part of life is not how it ends, but what one does with it. Perhaps this human fascination is why biographical counts are so attractive to readers and movie goers..

Not everybody recognizes the name of the writer, Truman Capote, who wrote *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *In Cold Blood*. The latter of the two made him one of America's most famous writers. He never finished another book, and died in 1984 of complications due to alcoholism.

The epigraph he chose for his last published work reads, "More tears are shed over answered prayers than unanswered ones."

**Truman:** Alright –

**Perry:** But he's naturally mendacious <sup>(7)</sup> – not to be trusted – if he had a hundred dollars he'd steal a stick of chewing gum.

**Scene 3: Theater, New York City – Evening**

*(Truman reading. The audience completely still.)*

**Truman:** The four coffins, which quite filled the small, flower-crowded parlor, were to be sealed at the funeral services – very understandably, for the effect ... was disquieting. Nancy wore her dress of cherry-red velvet, her brother a bright plaid shirt; the parents were more sedately attired, Mr Clutter in navy-blue flannel, his wife in navy-blue crepe <sup>(8)</sup>; and – and it was this especially that lent the scene an awful aura <sup>(9)</sup> – the head of each was com-

pletely encased in <sup>(10)</sup> cotton, a swollen cocoon twice the size of an ordinary blown-up balloon, and the cotton, because it had been sprayed with a glossy substance, twinkled like Christmas-tree snow.

*(Truman reading. The audience transfixed.)*

**Truman:** Imagination, of course, can open any door – turn the key and let terror walk right in. [One] Tuesday, at dawn, a carload of ... strangers, ignorant of the local disaster – were startled by what they saw as they crossed the prairies and passed through Holcomb: windows ablaze, almost every window in almost every house, and, in the brightly lit rooms, fully clothed people, even entire families, who had sat the whole night wide awake, watchful, listening. Of what were they frightened? "It might happen again."

## Vocabulary

**1. waive the hearing:** to state officially that a chance to be heard explaining one's position is on longer in effect

**2. curry favor with:** to try to win attention by insincere means

**3. take up with:** to become friendly with someone

**4. latch:** a simple fastening

for a door, gate or window, worked by dropping a bar into a U-shaped space

**5. scream one's head off:** to scream repeatedly, for a long time – loudly.

**6. Cherokee:** a native American tribe in the United States

**7. mendacious:** of a person or statement not truthful; lying

**8. crepe:** light soft thin cloth, with a finely lined and folded surface, made from cotton, silk or wool.

**9. aura:** an effect or feeling that seems to surround and come from a person or place

**10. encase in:** to cover completely

*(By He Jianwei)*

# Is Dodgy really a name?

## Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at [gantian@ynet.com](mailto:gantian@ynet.com).

By Annie Wei

My friend Sam, a successful architect and a Canadian-born Chinese man was in his thirties, decided to take a break last year and came to Beijing to study Chinese. He eventually ended up in a one-year course at the Beijing Culture and Language University.

Most students in his class were 18 or 19 year old South Koreans. No one in his course could accurately tell how old he really was. It was a great time for him. "It's like a second chance to be young and wild," Sam

concluded. That meant he was going out almost three or four nights a week, getting wasted and partying.

I have been to one of the student parties with him. It was again a group of South Korean students who got a table at a bar called Inner Affairs. It turned out to be one girl's 19th birthday. We shook hands and introduced ourselves to every one as we walked in.

The birthday girl, in a pink top and really cute, said, "Hey,

my name is Dodgy!" Dodgy? Is that really an English name? I was very confused.

I asked Sam whether he noticed that his classmate had a weird name.

"Oh, sure," Sam shrugged his shoulders. "I was shocked when she told me her name for the first time. I asked her why she picked Dodgy as an English name. She said it was because

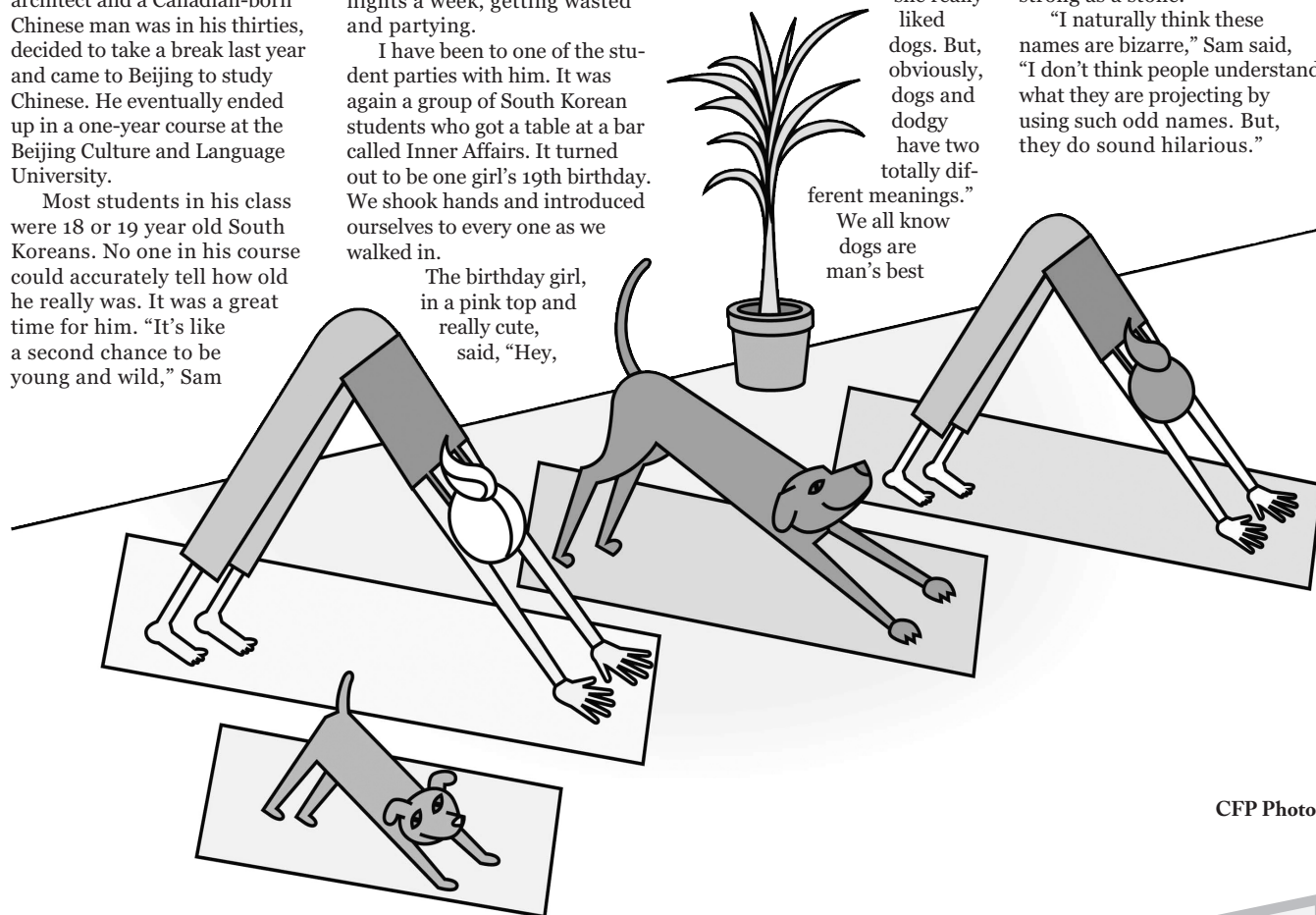
she really liked dogs. But, obviously, dogs and dodgy have two totally different meanings."

We all know dogs are man's best

friend but dodgy means dishonest and unreliable.

Sam said he heard a few funny stories about how Asian people choose their English names, like some one naming himself Diamond because he thought of himself just like a diamond, to stand out from the crowd. Another guy named himself Stoney because he thought it meant he was as strong as a stone.

"I naturally think these names are bizarre," Sam said, "I don't think people understand what they are projecting by using such odd names. But, they do sound hilarious."



CFP Photo

## Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch for it each week.

By Shida Zhu

### 1. China Custom's new regulations

As China Customs is the proper noun for the department of the government that collects import duties, its possessive form should be China Customs' new regulations. A point so minute, it is very easily overlooked.

### 2. She arrived in Beijing for only a few days

The verb "arrive" denotes an action at a designated point of time and does not contain any sense of duration. So, you should say: She arrived in Beijing the day before yesterday. She has been in the city for only a few days. In using English verbs, you will have to be aware of whether it denotes an action at a designated point of time or a period of duration that relates closely to the use of tense.

### 3. It tells how the Tibetans live with in the 20th century

"How" indicates the way the action is done. For instance, "It" tells how well the Tibetans live in the 20th century. If you wish to express "live with," it has to be followed by an object. Then, it should be like this: It tells what the Tibetans live with in the 20th century.

### 4. For some people who don't shower after exercises often experience pains in the joints.

Can you see what is wrong with this sentence? It does not have a subject. Who is the doer of the verb "experience"? Nobody. "For" should also be eliminated.

### 5. Pilots who job-hop may cost millions.

The verb "cost" as a transitive verb means "causing the loss or sacrifice" or involving

an outlay or expenditure of." So, the word order of this sentence is totally wrong. It should be: It costs the pilots who job-hop millions.

### 6. Listen to people describe the challenges

You listen to people doing something. First of all, it will not do to have the verb "listen" to be followed by an infinitive without "to." More preferably and idiomatically, you will say: Listen to people describing the challenges.

### 7. Online protests who said

"Protest" is a noun. So you will have to use the conjunction "that". If it is "protester," it will all right to use "who." No matter how small these things are, you will have to take care of them for perfect English.

### 8. The court's decision is encouraging to the accuser's dishonesty.

When you use "encourag-

ing" as a predicate, you say: It is encouraging to the accuser in his dishonesty. If you use "encouraging" as the main verb in the sentence, you will say: It is encouraging the accuser's dishonesty. Please note that there is no longer "to."

### 9. Due to a scarce in funds

"Scarce" is an adjective meaning "hard to get" "rare." The phrase "due to" has to be followed by a noun. So, you will have to say: Due to the scarcity in funds.

### 10. The demolition devices have been moved.

The writer here is confused with "remove" and "move." "Remove" means "to move from a place or a position" while "move" means "to change the place or position of." Though they look more or less similar, they mean vastly different. Here, you should say: The demolition devices have been removed.

## Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to [gantian@ynet.com](mailto:gantian@ynet.com) together with your name and address.



Photo by Derrick Sobodash

## Warmth welcome

By Derrick Sobodash

When translating Chinese to English, sentence order usually isn't a problem thanks to the languages' syntactic similarities. Of course, that's not much help when the translator is standing on his head.

This week's sign hails from Beijing's famous Hongqiao Market, or Pearl Market depending on how much the reader's tour book loves *pinyin*, and is notable for its English being a perfect inverse of its Chinese. Of course, being so notable means it is completely wrong.

The sign reads, "The 3rd 4th 5th floor There are all kinds of pearl adornments with our warmth welcome!" That's a mouthful for how short this should be: multiple Chinese sentences have amalgamated into a single, abhorrent Chinglish one.

The first line should simply be, "Welcome!" The Chinese actually says *huanying huigu*, which is literally, "Welcome, patrons!" But in English, we rarely use "patron" on signs, let alone in common speech. It's a phrase relegated to the realm of scary old computer RPG shopkeepers saying "Hee hee hee, thank you for your patronage!"

Next up is a simple declarative sentence that says, "Pearl jewelry is available on floors 3, 4 and 5." For this sign, "jewelry" is descriptive enough. Simply saying "accessories" makes it sound like they are selling fashionable Hello Kitty items and plastic crap as opposed to the big-ticket pearls this market is so known for.

The sign is far simpler than its English would indicate.

While we are on the topic, sign translators need to knock off these attempts at making warm, fuzzy signs. Goody words just aren't used in English advertising, and it sets the writers up for even more dangerous pitfalls. "Warm-hearted feeling" easily turns into "heart worm feeling" in the hands of a translator.

So remember, translators: the fewer words you write, the fewer you will foul up.



## SPORTS ARENA

WEEKLY!  
"POOL TOURNEY"  
TIME: EVERY WEDNESDAY 8 PM

CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUAN HU GARDEN TOWER #1



朝阳公园桥东路北观湖国际大厦写字楼1号首层



59283045 / 65381691 / 13901087774

## Friday, July 27

Exhibition  
Group Show of Western Masters

This collection includes original works from some of the top European artists, spanning over 80 years of modern art history.

Where: 89 Promenade Des Arts Gallery, Room 1010, Building D, Lanbao Gongyu, No 3 Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 3pm-9pm, or daily by appointment, until July 30  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8599 9974, 131 4105 9246

Movie  
Manon Des Sources

In a rural French village, an old man and his only remaining relative are successful flower growers using water from a spring on an adjoining property they now own. The grown-up daughter of the previous owner still lives in the hills as a goat herder and comes to realize that the whole village knew of the existence of a spring when her father was desperately trying to water his crops. An accident with one of the goats leads her to



the source of the spring and the possibility for terrible revenge against those who kept it a secret.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang  
When: 7:30pm  
Admission: 10-20 yuan  
Tel: 6553 2627



## Saturday, July 28

Exhibition  
Lu Zhongyuan Solo Exhibition

Where: The first floor, Today Art Museum, No 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 9am-5pm, until August 1  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5876 0011, 5876 9392

Music  
Blind Stereo Live Show

Blind stereo is a raw, fresh alternative band that should not be missed. With brilliant melodies and beats that will move even the heaviest pair of feet. The band has been given excellent reviews by the local and national media in Norway.

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, No 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: 10pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8196 4820

Movie  
So Close to Paradise  
(Bian Dang Gu Niang)

The film focuses on two friends living in Wuhan, a major center for commerce along the Yangtze River. Dongzi works as an errand boy who lugs heavy loads from one place to another; he's convinced one gets ahead in life through hard work and determination. But Gao Ping avoids physical labor and is trying to scam his way through life. One night, the two visit a seedy nightclub where they meet a sultry singer named Ruan Hong ...

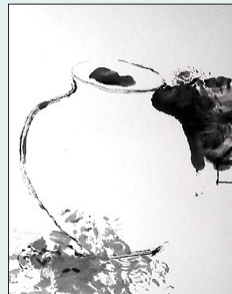
Where: Cherry Lane Movies, inside Kent Center, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: 8pm  
Admission: 50 yuan  
Tel: 139 0113 4745

## Sunday, July 29

Exhibition  
Lithograph Associated Group Exhibition

Featuring Zhu Dequn, Zhao Wuji and Ding Xiongquan.  
Where: The First Sound Gallery, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun 10am-6:30pm, until August 24  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6431 2501, 132 6961 2044

## Solo exhibition of Francois Bossiere



Francois is from the center of the art world – Paris, France. Bossiere is a painter who has longed for Chinese traditional culture and combines it with his real life artwork. Through his visual art form, the possibility of communicating with different cultures was created.

Where: The fourth floor, Today Art Museum, No 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 9am-5pm, until August 6  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5876 0011, 5876 9392

Spontaneous Combustion  
– Works by Xu Ruotao

In discussing the choice of media in his works, Xu Ruotao is hard to be defined as any particular type of artist, his works include photography, video installation, and painting.

Where: Platform China Space B, East End Art District, Caochangdi, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, until September 2  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6432 0169, 6432 0091

## Stage in August

## Music

## Yndi Halda Beijing Concert

Who: Yndi Halda (Enjoy the Eternal Bliss in English), a rock band from the UK

Where: Star Live Music Hall, 3F Candy (Tangguo) Xinguang Xianchang, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng  
When: 8:30pm, August 3  
Admission: 60-80 yuan

Broadway Music Opera  
Mamma Mia!

This hilarious musical comedy revolves around Sophie, who is trying to find out who her real father is so that he can give her away at her wedding. It turns out that the mother, Donna, had intimate relations with three people during the summer of love, and the father could be any one of the three. So Donna surreptitiously invites all three of them to the wedding.

Who: Catherine Johnson, Benney Anderson, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Stig Anderson

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng  
When: 7:30pm, August 7-19  
Admission: 180-2,008 yuan

Dream Back Spain  
– Recital of Classical Guitar

Who: The Beijing Philharmonic Guitar Trio  
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng  
When: 7:30pm, August 16  
Admission: 10-100 yuan

## Drama

## The Dinner Game



A Chinese adaptation of Francis Veber's play *Le Diner de Cons*. It follows the story of Pierre Brochant, a successful Parisian publisher, who attends a weekly "idiots' dinner." Each guest must bring along an "idiot" for the amusement of the other invitees. At the end of the dinner the evening's "champion idiot" is selected. Brochant manages to find an exceptional idiot: Francois Pignona, a taxation bureau employee with a passion for building replicas with matchsticks.

Who: Dashan and Guo Donglin  
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng  
When: 7:30pm, August 29-31  
Admission: 100-680 yuan

## Super Baby

The play is about a baby panda who is going into an extraordinary experience with both Korean and Chinese kids.

Where: Nationality Theater, No 49, Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng  
When: 7:30pm, August 5-26  
Admission: 40-380 yuan  
Tel: 5905 9082

(By Qiu Jiaoning)